



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-063
Monday
5 April 1993

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Kuwait Hails Transfer of Union Headquarters From Iraq

LD0404220093 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Jasim Muhammad al-'Awn, Kuwaiti social affairs and labor minister, has hailed the Arab Cooperation Union's [al-Ittihad al-Ta'awuni al-'Arabi] two decisions to transfer the Union's headquarters from Baghdad to the State of Kuwait, and to dismiss the former secretary general, who was subordinate to the Iraqi regime. Jasim Muhammad al-'Awn described the union's decisions as courageous and brave.

In a speech delivered at the meeting of the Arab Cooperation Union General Secretariat, currently convening in Kuwait, the social affairs and labor minister called on the Union members to bear their responsibilities in siding beside the Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees held by the Iraqi regime.

On the other hand, Zaki 'Abd al-Hadi, Arab Cooperation Union secretary general, affirmed the Union's stand at the side of the State of Kuwait in order to repatriate its prisoners detained in the Iraqi regime's prisons. It appeals to all Arab and international organizations to stand beside their brothers the prisoners, and beside Kuwait in this ordeal.

Arab Population Conference Opens in Amman

JN0504070293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Apr 93 p 3

[Excerpt] Amman—The Arab Population Conference, jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), opened its proceedings Sunday at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

Forming part of the regional preparation for the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in September, the five-day conference in Amman started examining key population-related issues in the Arab countries.

Held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan the conference Sunday adopted its agenda containing the key population issues in the Arab World: population growth and structure; population policies and programmes; population, environment and development; population distribution and internal migration; international migration; women and development and family planning, health and family well-being.

The conference elected Mundher al-Masri of Jordan chairman of the senior officials and experts meeting, which will continue until April 6 and will be followed immediately by a ministerial meeting April 7-8. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Organization Condemns Armenian 'Aggression'

NC0404211493 Paris AFP in English 2054 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, April 4 (AFP)—The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] Sunday condemned Armenian "aggression" against Azerbaijan, an OIC member, and expressed its "total solidarity" with the Muslim republic.

In a statement issued at the headquarters of the OIC here, Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabid expressed "deep concern" in the face of the upsurge in fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan, two former Soviet republics.

"The Armenian offensive against the Azeri town of Kelbadzhar has led to a serious escalation and extension to the conflict" which, he charged, "is encouraged and backed from abroad."

Al-Ghabid called on Armenia to withdraw its forces from Azeri territory and to look to a negotiated solution to settle its bloody five-year dispute with Azerbaijan over the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mostly Armenian enclave that is seeking independence from Azerbaijan.

He also called on the international community to "intensify its efforts to persuade Armenia to end its hostilities."

Armenian forces last week launched an offensive against the Kelbadzhar area, between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. On Saturday, they seized the town and neighbouring villages and now control most of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, whose country is also part of the OIC, has also warned Armenia over its offensive, saying his government's patience was "running thin," the semi-official news agency ANATOLIA said Sunday.

Demirel did not elaborate on his warning issued Saturday or specify if Turkey was considering any move other than to seek western diplomatic pressure against Armenia, the agency said.

Palestinian Affairs

FRC Threatens PLO Chairman, Announces End of Talks

NC0504052993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Fatah-The Revolutionary Council [FRC], the group led by Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], has accused PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat of treason and has threatened to physically liquidate him. In the wake of successive assassinations of FRC supporters in Lebanon, the FRC announced that mediation between it and the PLO has ended.

Palestinians From Jerusalem Expected To Join Talks

JN0504074893 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 5 Apr 93 p 16

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpt] The United States has promised the Palestinians that figures from Jerusalem will be allowed to take part in the ninth round of peace talks, scheduled to be held in Washington on 20 April.

Responsible Palestinian sources following Palestinian meetings in Tunis have told AL-RAY that the promise was made to Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian Steering Committee, and the members of the accompanying Palestinian team, during their recent visit to Washington.

Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Sari Nusaybah, and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi are the Jerusalem personalities expected to join the Palestinian negotiating team.

The sources pointed out that the United States also promised the Palestinians that Israel will not carry out further deportations if negotiations were resumed on 20 April. The sources further said the United States pledged to al-Husayni to timetable the return of the deportees. The Palestinian side has insisted that all deportees return by June. The Americans and other Arab parties, however, wish to extend the deadline until August. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Leadership Meeting in Tunis Reported

'Arafat: No Change in U.S. Position

LD0204175493 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of Palestine, has pointed out that no development whatsoever has occurred on the American stance following the recent meeting between a Palestinian delegation and the U.S. Secretary of State. He added that the American stance continue to adhere to the Israeli line, which has not changed. As far as the Palestinian participation at the forthcoming talks, due to take place in the American capital on 20 April, the Palestinian president told Tunis-Afrique Press Agency that the Palestinian leadership, which has been meeting for the last 48 hours and is due to continue meeting for a few days, will be examining the issue in order to come out with a clear decision.

Position on Talks Called 'Hardline'

NC0304202993 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Report by Antoine 'Awn]

[Text] Extreme tension prevails in the occupied territories since the Israeli occupation forces closed off the Gaza Strip last Monday and the West Bank on Wednesday in the wake of repeated Palestinian attacks on the Israelis. Large reinforcements were sent to the occupied territories in the past few days.

Meanwhile an expanded meeting of the Palestinian leaders in Tunis, which began last night, remains officially in

session. One session was held in the morning and another one is due to begin in about two hours. The PLO leaders are trying to reach some formula governing Palestinian participation in the next round of peace negotiations.

To learn what has been taking place in these meetings, we telephoned the Palestinian president's adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif a short time ago. He disclosed to MBC that the Palestinians might adopt a hardline position if Israel rejects Warren Christopher's proposals pertaining to the resumption of the talks. Abu-Sharif also criticized the U.S. role.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Sharif] So far the discussions have not produced results. Still, I can say that a hardline Palestinian view already exists concerning the resumption of the talks if the Israeli Government is not responsive to the six U.S. points Warren Christopher presented to the Palestinian delegation, which were subsequently welcomed by the Palestinian leadership.

[Awn] Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has refused to attend the Palestinian leaders' meeting and demanded a comprehensive national dialogue. How does this affect the impact of any decision made at the meeting?

[Abu-Sharif] I regret to say that Hamas, whose views we respect as we do the views of PLO opposition factions, is asking for something already done and finished. A comprehensive national dialogue actually occurred in the past and resulted in the brave intifadah. The long Palestinian experience gave birth to the intifadah five years ago and produced a total popular resistance to the occupation. I regret to say that the Palestinian nationalist ranks have no time for marginal contradictions. Those who wish to join the nationalist ranks must confront the occupation to end it. This is the nationalist program.

[Awn] In an interview to be published tomorrow, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi [head of Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks] has told the Damascus-based Palestinian magazine AL-HURRIYAH that most Palestinians are demanding total and final withdrawal from the negotiations because they feel frustrated. Do you share this view?

[Abu-Sharif] It is natural that this process should undergo fluctuating popular responses, variously optimistic and pessimistic. Whenever the Israeli Government adopts a hardline position and persists in its bloody terrorism against our nation, the people feel that the negotiations are fruitless. This is a challenge to the new U.S. Administration. First of all, it must improve its credibility by using the same yardstick in dealing with all Security Council and UN resolutions. Whether the climate improves or people in the Middle East become frustrated depends on what the United States decides. We hope that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington will produce positive results that will improve the atmosphere and somewhat reduce the frustration of all those who pinned their hopes on the peace process, the foundations of which were proposed by the former U.S. Administration.

[Awn] One last question. Christopher's statement to the U.S. Congress carried total support for Israel. How does the PLO see this?

[Abu-Sharif] We have no illusions about the U.S. stance. We do not imagine that the United States will one day become a backer of the Arabs and Palestinians and oppose Israel. However, politics is a mobile field of struggle. We cannot isolate ourselves from it. We must plunge ourselves into this struggle until we can put the political movement in the direction that serves our nation's interests and the interests of the Arabs and Muslims.

[Awn] Thank you.

[Abu-Sharif] Thank you. [end recording]

Officials on Christopher Comments

NC0404101193 Paris AFP in English 0953 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Tunis, April 4 (AFP)—PLO officials and Palestinian delegates to the Middle East peace talks met here late Saturday to discuss the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories and the future of the peace initiative.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief peace delegate, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat were attending the five days of talks, which opened Friday at PLO Headquarters in the Tunisian capital.

The meeting comes two weeks ahead of the next round of peace talks in Washington, set to open April 20.

With the Palestinians refusing to attend before a solution to Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians in December, the Arab parties to the peace talks have not yet announced whether they will return to the negotiating table.

Most Palestinians want to quit the U.S.-sponsored initiative, according to 'Abd-al-Shafi. "Most Palestinians demand we pull out from the talks once and for all," he told the Damascus magazine AL-HURRIYAH.

"They are disappointed with the lack of progress in the peace process and Israel's continuation of its criminal policy and settlements in the occupied territories," he said.

The territories were last week sealed off from Israel after a wave of violence in which 25 Palestinians and 15 Israelis were killed in March.

'Abd-al-Shafi added however that the Palestinians would accept "a gradual return of the Palestinian deportees before June, if they receive an official Israeli commitment to renounce expulsions."

A senior PLO official, meanwhile, warned that pro-Israeli statements from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would harm the peace process.

Faruq Qaddumi, the Political Department chief, rebuked Christopher for reaffirming U.S. financial commitment to Israel, backing Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and lashing out at the Arab trade boycott of Israel.

"These remarks will have a negative influence on the peace process and will increase obstacles," Qaddumi said, quoted

by the Jordanian news agency PETRA, referring to Christopher's testimony before Congress last week.

Talks Decision After Amman Meeting

NC0404155993 Paris AFP in English 1533 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Tunis, April 4 (AFP)—PLO officials and Palestinian delegates to the Middle East peace talks met here Sunday to discuss violence in the Israeli-occupied territories and the future of the peace process.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chief peace delegate, said in an interview published in Tunis that the Palestinians would decide on whether to attend the next peace round when they meet with other Arab parties in Amman on April 15.

'Abd-al-Shafi and Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasir 'Arafat were attending the five days of talks, which opened Friday at PLO headquarters in the Tunisian capital. The meeting comes two weeks ahead of the next round of peace talks in Washington, set to open April 20.

With the Palestinians refusing to attend before a solution to Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians in December, the Arab parties to the peace talks have not yet announced whether they will return to the negotiating table.

'Abd-al-Shafi told the Tunisian newspaper, AL-SABAHA, that a final decision would be taken at the meeting due in Amman with the Syrians, Lebanese, and Jordanian delegations. He said the previous eight rounds of negotiations made "no progress" because of "Israel's intransigent" position. He said the Palestinians "will not be able to return to the negotiating table unless Israel changes its position, which is in contradiction with the demands of peace, and applies resolution 799." [passage omitted]

Hamas Refuses To Attend

JN0304134693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has declined to attend the Palestinian leadership meetings which will begin in Tunis today under Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat. Telephoning from Qatar where he as well as Hamas' Political Bureau Member Musa Abu-Marrzuq and the Movement's official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah are on a working visit. Hamas representative to Jordan Muhammad Nazzal said: We will not participate in the Palestinian leadership meetings because we adhere to a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue as a platform for discussing issues of interest to the Palestinian people. Nazzal added that issues that have to be dealt with require broader discussion. He regarded the invitation for Hamas to participate in the Tunis meeting as not serious but intended to cover the PLO's aim of joining negotiations with Israel.

Delegate Says Gradual Return of Deportees Acceptable

NC0304143293 Paris AFP on English 1355 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, April 3 (AFP)—Most Palestinians want to quit the Arab-Israeli peace talks, according to the head of the Palestinian negotiating team, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi.

"Most Palestinians demand we pull out from the talks once and for all," 'Abd-al-Shafi told AL-HURRIYAH magazine, which appears here Sunday.

"They are disappointed with the lack of progress in the peace process and Israel's continuation of its criminal policy and settlements in the occupied territories."

He told AL-HURRIYAH, published by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), that the Palestinians would however accept "a gradual return of the Palestinian deportees before June, if they receive an official Israeli commitment to renounce expulsions."

Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories on December 17 has stalled the peace process begun in October 1991.

Washington and Moscow, the sponsors of the talks, have invited Arabs and Israelis to return to the negotiating table on April 20, but the Arab parties have yet to give a response.

The DFLP has opposed the peace talks since the outset, in contrast to the Palestine Liberation Organisation leadership, which instructs the peace team.

European Group Meets With Palestinian Figures

LD0304225293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Brothers, in the meeting of the representatives of the foreign ministers of the European troika with Palestinian figures in Brest Al-Sharif on Thursday, the Europeans hinted on the necessity of the Palestinian side's return to the peace talks.

It seems that the aim of the troika's visit to the region was not, as previously rumored, to deliver a certain message to the Arab sides from a third party, but to urge the Palestinian side to participate in the negotiations without any consideration or any conditions.

Like America, Europe does not want to, or cannot, put pressure on Israel. Instead, it puts pressure on the Arabs and the Palestinians, in particular, which is easier in its estimation.

In one way or another, Europe overlooks what is happening in the occupied territories, the dangerous repercussions which result from that, the Israeli practices which lead to the deepening of the feeling of despair and frustration among the Palestinian people, and the reflection of that on the deterioration of the security situation and the increase of the boiling level and acts of violence.

On their part, the Palestinians have pointed out to the troika delegation that the issue is not dependent on the return of the Palestinians to the negotiating table, because we yearn to

put an end to our people's tragedies. The problem is that Israel's policy is putting obstacles in the face of progress of the peace process. More important than that is that the Palestinians have always relied on Europe to have a role in what is happening in the region, but it remained silent and ignores what is happening in the occupied territories. Where are the slogans which Europe raises against human rights violations, and the serious work toward putting out the hotbeds of tension in the world? Or do these slogans fall when the matter is connected with the human rights of the Palestinian man?

Europe's stance toward the expulsion of the 400 Palestinians, and Israel's practices in the occupied territories, are an original copy of the American biased stance towards Israel.

Our expectations from the European Community have been dashed not because it did not support the Palestinian stand but because it lacked the courage to stand up to American hegemony. Regrettably, the troika delegation has come to market American and Israeli goods. The Europeans, instead of putting pressure on the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table, ought to have persuaded the other side to abandon its policy, which has undermined the peace process and prevented the Palestinians from returning to the negotiating table; Israel, as promised many times by its government, should have taken some steps to build confidence and settle the current differences.

This is what the EC is required to do if it really is earnest in pushing the sides in the negotiations forward along the path of achieving the peace which has been long desired. As for the announcement of the troika delegation, however, namely that the European side will continue to be committed to helping the Palestinians economically and materially on condition that they return to the negotiating table, we reject this kind of approach in part and parcel.

Our issue and our constant stance are not for sale or for negotiations. We will return to the negotiating table if we feel that this is in the national interest. Their promise to give moral and material aid only after we return to negotiations is rejected. It is because their promises are like those of America—they are not credible.

If the visit of the troika delegation to the countries of the area and their meeting with the Palestinians at home and abroad are merely a formality and a publicity exercise to show that Europe has traditional interests in the trend of events in the area by virtue of neighborly concern, then we say that the time for diplomatic flowery language has passed and that it should be replaced by action and not by the double standard policy, as America has been doing.

More than a quarter of a century has passed since the beginning of occupation. The Palestinian people, during this period, have been tormented and repressed for the sake of attaining their rights. The civilized European states did not come to the aid of right and justice; they have never gone beyond the stage of rhetoric. Good can only come through the sacrifices, blood, and toil of our nation's sons.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Support for Israel

LD0404215593 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Brothers, while the military siege around the regions of our occupied territories is continuing, and while the peace process is deadlocked, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has been making new statements expressing the fullest support for Israel, for Israeli policy, and for Israeli measures, without any regard on the part of Washington to a possible confrontation with the Arab side, or paying any attention or concern to the peace process.

However, as the first sponsor of the peace conference, how can the United States possibly be so indifferent, when by necessity and through the statements of Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the United States is a full partner in the negotiations? This partnership (is one-sided and only favors Israel.

We were expecting Washington, as a sponsor and a participant, to state publicly that it is not in favor of a continued stalemate as it is killing the peace process, and that it is eager to preserve the peace process and to safeguard all the efforts and sacrifices which have been made for its sake during the past 17 months, and that it will not permit any attempt to block the road to the ninth round of negotiations.

The U.S. Administration, however, so far is removed from this logical supposition. As we have seen, it has acted in support of maintaining the deadlock by siding with the Israeli Government and with its policy, and with the very stringent measures it has been taking in our occupied territories.

It is abundantly clear that the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton is very satisfied with the downtrend and the disarray of the Arab position. In addition, it has asked what has already been mentioned—that the Arab boycott of Israel be stopped. By demanding this it appears that it is trying to offer more rewards to Israel, which is becoming ever increasingly intransigent, stubborn, and rejectionist. [passage indistinct]

PFLP-GC Says Israel Landed Force in Raid

JN0204180093 *(Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic* 1630 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A military spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated the following:

Correcting the military communique we issued on 1 April 1993, we would like to explain the following:

1. We said earlier that the Zionist enemy bombed our positions in Nahr al-Barid camp from gunboats and helicopters at 0500 on 1 April 1993, injuring two PFLP-GC personnel.

2. After field examinations, we found out that the Zionist enemy landed naval commando units [words indistinct] Nahr al-Barid after 0100. Afterward, enemy forces

advanced toward our offices to break into these offices, destroy them, and then capture the people there. This was designed to demoralize our mujahidin, collect more security information, and boost the morale of the Zionist army, which has declined as a result of the confrontations of the heroic intifadah and the valiant resistance operations in southern Lebanon.

3. As Zionist forces approached a courtyard at 0200 near our positions, they tried to engage some of our guards by way of deception so as to capture them and facilitate the enemy's mission. However, the position guards quickly discovered the enemy plans and confronted the attacking Zionist force. A fierce battle ensued at close quarters. Light weapons were used by both sides. When the enemy forces failed to advance, they were forced to retreat chaotically, leaving behind hardware and supplies, some of which were booby-trapped. The enemy withdrew at 0400 under a heavy cover of fire from gunboats and helicopters, after its failure to achieve its objectives, thanks to the vigilance and bravery of our fighters.

4. The course of the battle confirms there were many losses among the enemy ranks, given the traces of blood and the kind of aid kits used.

5. The Zionist enemy tried, as usual, to play down its failure to attain its objectives by declaring in a military communique that it targeted our positions by firing from its gunboats and helicopters alone, not mentioning the fact that its force landed on the beach. The enemy issued its communique late because of the chaos and confusion that prevailed after the heroic confrontation.

Israel Warned Against Attacks on Camps in Lebanon

NC0304210993 *Cairo MENA in English* 2014 GMT
3 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, April 3 (MENA)—The Palestine Organisation (PLO) warned Israel against holding on to the policies of terrorism, killings and attacks on Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

These measures will further deteriorate conditions and threaten the peace process, the PLO said in a statement released today by the Palestinian Information Bureau here.

The PLO held the Israeli Government and occupation army fully responsible for escalating spates of violence and declining the conditions of the Palestinian people.

The statement affirmed that the Palestinian leadership will adopt all measures necessary to protect the Palestinians through submitting their cause before the United Nations and all other international institutions.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's government is waging a comprehensive war against the Palestinian people under the cover of imposing security" [no opening quotation marks as received], the statement said.

The Palestinian leadership denounced all attempts by some international bodies to connive at the Israeli crimes of repression, torture and massacres.

Algeria

Armed Group Attacks Tourists Near Tamanrasset

LD0404061993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
2200 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The national gendarmerie command has reported that two armed terrorists hiding between El Arba and Meftah, in Blida Province, were killed this morning during a special people's armed forces operation. The people's armed forces unit recovered two Beretta guns, a (?Mat) 46 machine gun, a sawed-off shotgun, 80 5mm bullets, a bundle of fuse cord, and a bundle of dynamite. The same source said that an investigation is under way to identify the two terrorists, who some citizens had reported to the police.

The national gendarmerie command has announced that its services killed five terrorists and recovered arms following a Collo district operation at 0400 this morning.

The gendarmerie command has indicated that the Ouled Attia area operation to uncover an armed terrorist group resulted in the recovery of five machine guns, five sawed-off shotguns, and ammunition. All this took place after some citizens provided some information. The same source said that two gendarmes, including an officer, were slightly wounded during this operation. An investigation is under way to identify the two killed terrorists.

The National Tourism Office has reported that two Toyotas belonging to the aforementioned office and carrying tourists were subjected to an armed attack today in [place name indistinct], 17 kms west of Tamanrasset. A National Tourism Office source reported that this armed group stopped the two cars after firing their Kalashnikov rifles. The gendarmes started an inquiry following this operation.

Bank Hostage Incident Resolved; 3 Killed, 2 Escape

LD0404021893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
2200 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A statement by the Blida Province security services today indicated that the security forces succeeded in eliminating three persons of an armed group that hid at the offices of the Banque Nationale d'Algerie branch in the town of El Affroune. Seven employees and three clients had been hostages. The weapons in their possession were also recovered. [passage omitted]

The statement of the Blida Province security services also added that two members of the group exploited the great precautions taken by the security forces to safeguard the lives of the hostages and escaped, but their identities have been revealed and they are currently being sought. [passage omitted]

Setif Security Services Detain Alleged Terrorists

LD0104170093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1200 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Security services in Setif Province, in an attempt to combat terrorism and sabotage, were able recently to dismantle two groups, one of them consisting of three members. After investigation, these were found to be involved in a fire which broke out last year in the Ferhat Abbas University building. Details on the subject from Setif with Faisal [word indistinct].

[Faisal] The case of this group consists in the fact that a citizen had lodged a complaint on 18 March at the province's security services against unidentified people following an aggression he was subjected to in the outskirts of the Setif leisure center.

Subsequent investigation enabled the security services of the province to lay their hands on this group. It also revealed that this group was playing the role of an unofficial police, and holding public functions in an illegal way. The security services of the province were able to arrest the three members of this group who admitted the charges against them. Investigation revealed their involvement in the fire which broke out at the Setif University administration building the night of 4-5 May last year by using fuel and incendiary devices. They were also guilty of threatening to kill a policeman in front of his home. They are charged with forming a terrorist group, sabotaging a public institution, threatening to kill, and holding public functions in an illegal way. The Setif investigating magistrate put the three people under preventive custody.

On the other hand and still in the context of combating terrorism, the Setif security services were able to dismantle another group of five people who live in El Eulma and its suburbs. Investigation revealed according to the same services that they were involved in cases touching on public security. The investigating magistrate put three of them under preventive custody charged with conspiring against state security, forming a terrorist group, and providing support to terroristic elements, while the two others were given temporary release.

Egypt

President Mubarak's Trip to Washington Reported

Mubarak-Clinton Talks Previewed

NC0304190093 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
2 Apr 93 pp 4-7

["News analysis" by Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "Mubarak and Clinton: The Need for Face-to-Face Talks"]

[Text] The coming visit by President Hosni Mubarak to the United States acquires special importance for many reasons, largely related to the difficulties encountered by the peace process as violence escalates in the occupied territories. Many other developments call for a face-to-face meeting between Presidents Mubarak and Bill Clinton. The two men must be eager to explore each other's view on vital matters where U.S. and Arab interests intersect.

The Mubarak-Clinton talks will touch on a wide range of topics of common concern, beginning with the peace process and the issues of security and stability in the Middle East, and ending with the problem of international terror and its escalation in an international climate of growing chaos.

Egyptian-U.S. relations will feature prominently in the talks. Egypt, while aware of U.S. domestic problems, hopes to see the United States play a clear and responsible role in bolstering the peace process. Washington, for its part, hopes to see Egypt maintain its role as a force of balance and stability in the Middle East.

The visit will allow President Mubarak to meet President Clinton face to face for the first time. The two leaders have spoken over the telephone more than once and their advisers have held a number of preparatory meetings in Washington and Cairo. However, the visit will give them the first opportunity to get to know each other directly, without the medium of papers and go-betweens.

Cairo was the first stop in the tour with which U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher launched his term in office. Christopher visited various Middle East capitals to explain the views of the new U.S. Administration and its plans regarding the issues of peace and security in the region. President Mubarak listened to Christopher explaining Clinton's views on a number of current international issues. Christopher gave clear assurances that Clinton's foreign policy will not in its essence differ from that of President Bush, his Republican predecessor.

Christopher's tour last February answered many questions that accompanied the election of a Democratic candidate to the White House, a man whose election campaign drew massive Jewish support and whose electoral program focused on domestic issues. President Clinton made it one of his primary objectives to overhaul the U.S. economy and restore its competitiveness in the face of foreign trade giants who have not only taken control of the international markets, but made inroads within the U.S. market.

Bush's defeat, despite his resounding victory in the Gulf and stunning feats in foreign policy, means that the U.S. mood is changing. The United States is probably headed toward increasing obsession with its own domestic problems. There are justified fears that under the Democrats the United States may become isolationist and turn its back on its international responsibilities.

The landslide victory that brought Clinton to the White House, despite his limited experience with foreign policy, also gave rise to fears that he would be biased toward Israel, in view of the promises he made earlier to American Jewish groups.

The first one was that Middle East peace and stability are a U.S. interest that imposes itself on the U.S. foreign policy priorities and that Washington is looking toward playing the role of a full partner in the peace process, which must be resumed as soon as possible.

The second fact was that the new U.S. Administration cares about and appreciates the special ties between Cairo and Washington, that the U.S. commitment to the issues of

development and economic reform in Egypt is firm, and that the U.S. aid program for Egypt will continue unchanged.

Warren Christopher coupled his assurances with huge efforts during his tour of the region to speed up the concerned parties' agreement to resume the peace talks. He visited all the capitals and met with all the parties more than once. With his balanced and moderate statements, he created an atmosphere of optimism among the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Yet, he could not remove a number of doubts surrounding the U.S. stand.

Christopher left the region but a number of questions remained unanswered.

There was what many regarded as U.S. lassitude in ending the deportees issue in a way that ensures respect for the Security Council resolutions and enables the Palestinian negotiating team to go to the talks supported by strong Palestinian public opinion inside the occupied territories, as was the case when the team went to the Madrid conference.

The fact is that the absence of U.S. decisiveness in the deportees issue has put the Palestinian delegation in the embarrassing position of having to go to the talks while anger is mounting in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Everyone is asking: What can the United States do about the issue of the occupation of territories when it cannot compel the Israeli side to implement the Security Council resolution that demands the immediate return of all the deportees?

Yes. The deportees issue is no more than a transient problem because the essence and core of the question remains resumption of the peace efforts. But what can the Palestinian negotiating team do when there is a problem that has intensified the anger in the occupied territories and which was originally caused by Rabin's hastiness?

The Palestinians have recently accepted an Israeli declaration that could be construed as a compromise. They have agreed to go to the negotiations table in return for an announcement by Rabin that Israel will not resort to the policy of deportation in the future. But Rabin voiced the words in such a vague and ambiguous way that does not give the Palestinian delegation any face-saving leeway.

Then came the torrent of generous promises from the U.S. Administration to Rabin during the latter's recent visit.

The United States promised Israel strategic cooperation that ensures that it will maintain military and technological superiority and ensures, above all, that Israel will enter the 21st century armed with the latest products of U.S. research and studies centers. Regrettably, these generous promises have not been coupled with any guarantees that address the fears of the Palestinian and Arab delegations.

On the contrary, it appears from its stands that the United States is retreating from Christopher's promise during his stay in the region when he underlined the new U.S. Administration's intention to play the role of a full partner in the peace process.

What mostly annoyed Israel's politicians was an activation of the U.S. role in the peace process and its elevation to a

full partner status that will support justice when it is submerged by the differences between the concerned parties, present the right interpretation when interpretations contradict each other and the truth is distorted, and take the right stand when stands become entangled.

The Israelis believe that the U.S. commitment to the role of full partner will enhance the prospects of a public clash between Israel and the United States, weaken the Israeli negotiator's ability to blackmail the Arab stand, and put a limit to U.S. pressures. Hence, the Israelis did all they could to reject and reduce this role.

This was followed by Rabin's attempt at mystification by producing a new theory of Middle East security that would maintain Israel's strategic role in the region as a strong ally of the West and protector of its interests. Rabin proposed an Israeli-U.S. alliance to confront the perils of Islamic extremism on the grounds that it is a major factor of regional instability and the new enemy of Western culture and U.S. hegemony.

With this new theory, Rabin has sought to provide a new enemy for the West and the Americans instead of the Soviet Union, exploiting for this purpose the New York bombing and other acts of violence in Egypt, Algeria, and the occupied territories. Rabin's objective is to restore some of Israel's strategic value, lost following the Soviet Union's collapse and the disappearance of the communist threat. Part of Israel's value to the West and the United States was its potentially effective role in halting the Soviet threat to the Middle East. When the Soviet Union vanished, when this undeserved addition to Israel's role evaporated, and it seemed to the Israelis that international developments had eroded their status, Rabin came up with his new theory for Middle East security, hoping that it would revive Israel's former strategic role.

In his new theory Rabin ignored the following:

- The role played by Israeli extremism in creating a parallel extremism on the Arab and Islamic fronts.
- Likud's advocacy of a divinely ordained Greater Israel that must be established even at the cost of displacing the Palestinian nation.
- Israel's initial encouragement of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in order to fragment the unanimous Palestinian support for the PLO.
- The Israeli occupation's role in provoking violence in the occupied territories.
- The role played by Israeli extremists in successive attacks on [Jerusalem's] al-Aqsa Mosque and Abraham's Mosque in Hebron.

In this suspicion-fraught atmosphere, President Mubarak is visiting the United States to hold his first meeting with U.S. President Clinton. Mubarak will state the Arab position and seek clarification about matters that are still puzzling the Arabs.

Prior to his U.S. visit, Mubarak took care to meet with several influential Arab leaders including King Fahd, Syrian

President Hafiz al-Asad, and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. These three meetings capped intensive inter-Arab consultations prior to the first visit by an Arab president to Washington after the Democrats assumed power in the White House.

It is clear that following these consultations, Mubarak is carrying to Washington an integrated picture of the mainstream Arab position.

Mubarak carries the following to Washington:

First, an agreement among all Arabs that peace efforts need to be accelerated because the establishment of just and comprehensive peace is the only way to end mounting violence in the occupied territories. Such peace can also confront the winds of extremism which may find in the continued Israeli occupation an excuse for spreading extremist ideas among Arabs and Muslims provoked by the absence of a just international stand, the lack of a balance of powers, and the absence of a single standard respecting international law and global legitimacy.

Second, the readiness of all Arabs to shoulder the responsibilities of a comprehensive peace including the establishment of normal relations with Israel based on mutual recognition, respect of goodneighborly relations, and acceptance of reciprocal interests. This also includes new regional arrangements allowing continuing relations among the peoples of the region on sound bases. Thus, the essence of the issue, as seen by Egypt, is not which should come first, normalization or peace. Rather, it lies in good intentions and in the building of confidence measures leading all sides to the right approach addressing all fears and reconciling all objectives.

Third, the confidence of all Arab sides that any progress on any front of the bilateral negotiations may help speed up a comprehensive solution if all parties become certain that the international law and world legitimacy are respected and a clear and fair interpretation of Resolution 242 on all fronts is accepted.

Progress on the front of the Golan, for example, cannot be an alternative to progress in the talks with the Palestinians or the Jordanians, because the ultimate aim is a comprehensive settlement and a just solution allowing the states and peoples of the region to establish new relations.

Fourth, Mubarak also carries to Washington a message on the need to support the PLO because it is the trend that more than any other expresses the interests of the Palestinian people, realizes the nature of international changes and their impact on the Middle East, and allows a Palestinian-Israeli coexistence based on good neighborliness and acceptance of Israel inside secure and recognized borders.

Fifth, finally, Mubarak carries to Washington something like an Arab warning against the possibility of an unjustified antagonism toward Islam as a result of misunderstanding security requirements in the Middle East. In essence, Islam advocates international cooperation and calls for relations and mutual interests among the peoples of the region.

There is nothing in Islam that calls for confrontation with the West or premeditated enmity toward Western civilization. Those who would like to turn Islam into an enemy of Western civilization effectively want to expand the circle of violence and chaos. The best answer to extremist and terrorist movements is to speed up the establishment of just and comprehensive peace that respects the rights of the wronged peoples and opens chances for stability and development in the region.

These are the broad lines of Mubarak's trip to Washington.

In essence, it is a trip for acquaintance and understanding aimed, first and foremost, at encouraging the new U.S. Administration to take an even-handed position that maintains the peace process and ensures that it will realize its true objectives.

Mubarak Arrives in Washington

NC0304210893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1949 GMT
3 Apr 93

[Text] Washington, 3 Apr (MENA)—President Hosni Mubarak and his wife arrived at Andrews Air Force Base at 1410 today Washington time, 2110 Cairo time, on a four-day working visit to the United States.

He was received at the base by a number of senior military officers; Richard Gookin, chief of protocol at the U.S. State Department; Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Ahmad Mahir; Egyptian Embassy staff; Arab and African ambassadors in Washington; representatives of the Egyptian community in the United States; and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Robert Pelletreau.

It is known that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is currently in Vancouver, Canada, to attend the U.S.-Russian summit.

After the reception ceremony, the president left for Blair House guest residence, where he will stay during his visit to Washington.

Asked if he expects terrorist attacks as a reaction by the extremist groups, President Mubarak said: I do not expect this, and we will deal with those groups in all firmness and in accordance with the law.

The president described his talks with British officials in London as extremely good.

President Mubarak is accompanied by a delegation including Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, cabinet affairs minister and minister of state for administrative development; Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, director of the Presidential Office; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

President Mubarak is scheduled to begin contacts and meetings with U.S. officials and Congressional leaders in his place of residence at Blair House on Sunday morning.

Foreign Minister Comments

NC0404070993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by unidentified correspondent in Washington; date not given; from the "Correspondent's Dispatch" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Can you tell us about President Hosni Mubarak's visits to Germany and Britain and about the outcome of his talks there?

[Musa] The talks during the visit to Germany dealt with bilateral relations, cooperation in education—basic and vocational education—trade relations, investment, and joint projects. The talks also touched on the Middle East situation, particularly the peace process and the problems facing it. [passage omitted]

Prior to the start of the president's tour, Mubarak held lengthy talks with Syrian President al-Asad and Palestine president Yasir 'Arafat dealing with the Arab situation. There were also other contacts with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and the U.S. side concerning the peace process and its developments. We all hope that the peace process will resume on 20 April as scheduled.

There are certain obstacles that we are trying to overcome. We hope that all the parties will attend the talks.

During his visit to the United States, Mubarak will speak on behalf of the Arab side. He will deal with his impressions, the negotiations, and the obstacles that continue to cloud the situation. The Arab side has not yet decided whether to participate in the negotiations. We will meet in Damascus in the middle of the month, God willing, to resume our talks. We will discuss the issue in depth in light of Mubarak's visit to Washington, the current meetings held by the Palestinian leadership, and the outcome of the Mubarak-Clinton meeting.

[Correspondent] You said that Mubarak's meeting with the U.S. President will take place following Mubarak's contacts with King Fahd, President al-Asad, and the Palestinian president. On what points will we focus during these talks to eliminate the obstacles?

[Musa] It is not a question of points but this: The issue that keeps all of us occupied is that of the negotiations and the peace process and not the minor concomitant issues. Naturally, the concomitant issues are important. We want the deportees to return. But this or any other obstacle should not indefinitely close the door to the peace process. Why? Because the peace process primarily favors the Arab side. We are the ones who lost the land. We are the ones who want to regain the Palestinian people's rights. Therefore, the course of negotiations represents the means through which we can achieve the desired results.

It will be in the Arabs' interest to continue the negotiations. Consequently, the discussions during the talks will focus on the fact that the negotiations should not be negotiations for the sake of negotiations but for the sake of achieving results. We need swift results, and we must endeavor to attain them.

We, therefore, demand that Israel present objective proposals completely different from its previous ones, confirming the Israeli Government's intention to hold serious negotiations. We have received assurances from the Israeli Government in this regard. We hope that this will be implemented and achieved at the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

Envoy Views Mubarak's Plans, Peace Process

JN0404120493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930
GMT 4 Apr 93

[Interview with Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni by radio correspondent 'Umar Zaydani, in the "With the Midday Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zaydani] Your Excellency Muhammad Basyuni, ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Israel: His Excellency President Husni Mubarak has announced his desire to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Reports say that such a meeting, should it take place, will be held before 20 April. What is the importance of a meeting between Rabin and Mubarak under these circumstances?

[Basyuni] In fact, we are in an important historic phase. We are at a crossroad, and close to the resumption of the peace talks in Washington on 20 April. Therefore, it is very important to hold this meeting in order to exchange views and ideas on developing the peace process.

[Zaydani] Your Excellency Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni: President Husni Mubarak today begins a visit to the United States during which he will meet with President Clinton. This will be the first meeting between the two presidents. It is known that all Arab parties, including the Palestinians, participating in the peace talks are awaiting the outcome of this visit.

[Basyuni] No doubt, among the issues which will be raised in the meeting between his excellency the president and President Clinton is the issue of peace. How we will proceed, and how we will remove the obstacles to this path will all be discussed. Certainly, the Arab states are awaiting the outcome of this meeting. In my opinion, the meeting will yield positive results and promote the peace process, God willing. I hope that 1993 will be a year of good and peace, God willing.

[Zaydani] Your Excellency Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni: Do you think that the Arab parties, including the Palestinians, will attend the bilateral talks on 20 April? Will the obstacles to the Palestinians' participation in these talks be removed?

[Basyuni] The general principle is to continue the peace process and resume the peace talks. This is because if we resume the talks we can reach agreements and end the Arab-Israeli conflict. If we reach such agreements, there will be no deportations or [arbitrary] practices. Therefore, all obstacles to resuming the peace talks should be removed, so the most noble objective; namely, peace can be achieved.

[Zaydani] Your Excellency Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni: Thank you very much.

[Basyuni] You are welcome.

Message to Clinton Says U.S. 'Fostering' Terrorism NC0304122593

[Editorial Report] Under the headline "A Message to President Clinton on America, Terrorism, and Future Hazards", AL-AHRAM AL-MASATI in Arabic on 1 April publishes an approximately 2,000-word article on page 7 by Mahmud Murad, AL-AHRAM and AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY Deputy Chief Editor, in which he claims that the United States has played an important role in fostering terrorist groups.

Addressing President Clinton, Murad accuses the United States of "backing and supporting the terrorist groups, described as Islamic groups, that commit acts of violence in Egypt and other states—even the United States itself."

He says he was told by an American that his articles were part of the reason for the lawsuit filed against al-Jihad Organization Mufti Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman to withdraw his green card and deport him from the United States. He adds, however, that he senses some slackness in this lawsuit, because the United States has previously enforced the terrorism bill that authorizes it to prevent anyone linked to terrorism from entering, or staying in the United States. "This bill was applied to Yasir 'Arafat, who has not been proven to take part in terrorist operations," he explains. "Why does it not apply to 'Abd-al-Rahman?" He concludes that the harboring of 'Abd-al-Rahman implies that "the United States has another objective."

Going back to the 1970's, Murad recounts how two trends emerged in the political arena in Egypt. The first trend, the religious trend, was suppressed during the life of late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, following an attempt on his life. The second trend, the pan-Arab Nasirist trend, prevailed and took root in Egypt and other Arab states during and after 'Abd-al-Nasir's rule. Murad explains that "the United States and its allies wanted to reorganize things to preclude further Arab victories" after the October war. Hence, he says, the Nasirists were persecuted between 1971 and 1974, when the religious trend was implicitly encouraged by the regime. "Religious groups were set up in universities to counter the Nasirist intellectuals," and "the Muslim Brotherhood started to issue its own magazines without license, but with informal permission from the authorities, so that these publications could be banned when necessary," he says.

Murad contends that this conduct on the part of the authorities was inspired by "a scheme led by the United States," that "tried to create a Sunni leader in the face of the Shiite Khomeini of the Iranian revolution." He further notes that "secret organizations" were active in that field and that "a Safari Club [as published] was set up by the CIA and other intelligence agencies for the sake of coordination and cooperation" toward that goal.

He explains that the Muslim Brotherhood movement, established by Shaykh Hasan al-Banna in 1928, surfaced in the political arena during the Palestine war in 1948 as a reaction to the Jewish Zionist movement that sought to settle in Palestine. "As a result of its participation in the war, the Brotherhood developed well-trained military cadres capable of using weapons. This developed into a secret military wing," he explains. However, he states, the Brotherhood did not commit the acts of violence, riots, murder, and terrorism we see now, despite the limited individual assassinations that occurred.

"Finding favorable conditions, the group that was created by a political decision to confront an undesirable trend expanded and set up its first secret organization, al-Jihad, which continues in Egypt and elsewhere until today," Murad writes. He adds that there is an organic relationship between the Brotherhood and that organization, as well as with the other groups that emanated from it: Those Delivered From the Fire, al-Shawqiyyun, Hamas, Hizballah, and others.

To illustrate that violence was imported from abroad, Murad states that the first al-Jihad operation in 1977 was led by a Jordanian named Salih Sariyyah, "a disciple of the Jordanian Islamic Liberation Party of the 1950's, which had strong ties to the CIA." In that operation, the Technical Military Academy was subjected to an armed attack. Late Awqaf Minister Dr. al-Dhahabi was kidnapped and brutally slaughtered by the group at that time.

Murad further says that "the United States used the national rejection of the Soviet presence in Afghanistan in the late 1970's by giving it a religious appearance, hence attaching more value and importance to al-Jihad Organization." He explains that American parties "trained the group members and paid them well. As a result, these groups gained power and, when the Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan and the Soviet Union collapsed, it was natural for these groups to return to their homelands to join the organizations they emanated from, and to adopt violence as an approach to achieving their political goal of seizing authority. They applied the guerrilla methods you trained them in and taught them to their followers."

Murad contends that this has led to what we see in Egypt and elsewhere today. He adds: As I have said before, this is alien to us and to our customs; it is imported from abroad.

Addressing Clinton, Murad concludes: "You, I mean some of your institutions, were involved in this."

Lawyer Says 'Abd-al-Rahman Wants To Return

NC0404132593 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT
4 Apr 93

[Text] Al-Fayyum, Egypt, April 4 (AFP)—The spiritual guide of the militant al-Jama'a al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] movement, Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, wants to return to stand trial in Egypt after two years of self-exile in the United States, his lawyer said here Sunday.

'Adil al-Laymuni told AFP that 'Abd-al-Rahman "does not fear this trial and wants to return to Egypt to appear before the court."

The fiery blind cleric, acquitted in 1990 of charges of organizing a violent anti-government protest in this Muslim fundamentalist stronghold 100 kilometers (60 miles) southwest of Cairo, goes back on trial Tuesday on the same charge.

The police plan to tighten security, whether 'Abd-al-Rahman appears or not.

Under emergency laws passed after the assassination of former president Anwar al-Sadat by Muslim extremists in October 1981—in which the shaykh was also implicated but cleared—the government has decided to reopen his trial.

According to the attorney who said he spoke to his client 10 days ago, "nothing is preventing the return of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman" to stand trial in an al-Fayyum court.

Al-Laymuni said the cleric would "bolster his position" if he appeared in court.

In an interview on Friday with the London-based Arabic daily AL-HAYAH, President Husni Mubarak denied Egyptian authorities had asked the U.S. Administration to hand over the shaykh for re-trial in Egypt. Mubarak said if 'Abd-al-Rahman wanted to return to Egypt, he was welcome.

On March 29, the president told the U.S. Cable News Network that 'Abd-al-Rahman would face due process if he had violated the law.

"If he violated the law there is a court... If he did something wrong, there is the court. We are not putting him in jail as he said, never," Mubarak insisted.

The shaykh's name has also been tied to the World Trade Center bombing of February 26 that killed six people and injured 1,000. Several of the suspects attended prayers at the New Jersey mosque where he preached.

'Abd-al-Rahman faces deportation proceedings from the United States for having falsified his resident alien permit papers and for failure to disclose that he was a polygamist. He plans to appeal.

In a related development, the security chief for al-Fayyum, General Muhammad Ghunaym, told AFP that "maximum security measures are being enforced to prevent the extremists from capitalizing on the trial to commit crimes."

Muslim fundamentalist sources said meanwhile they planned to organize a march on Tuesday to demonstrate their support for the shaykh and to demand his acquittal.

More than 130 people have been killed in a running battle between Muslim fundamentalists and Egyptian security forces since March 1992, with foreign tourists and Coptic Christians also victims of the violence.

Minister Denies Deal Behind Abu-Halimah's Handover*NC0304154093 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 31 Mar 93 p 1*

[Text] Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has denied that there is a political deal behind the handover of Mahmud Abu-Halimah to the United States in return for the handover of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, amir of the al-Jihad Organization, to Egypt. He said Egypt has not requested the extradition of 'Abd-al-Rahman. He added: "We do not need his presence in Egypt."

Musa explained that Abu-Halimah, suspected of bombing the World Trade Center in New York, traveled of his own volition to the United States to stand trial. He explained that the crime was committed in a foreign country and that a foreigner who commits a crime in Egypt is punished in Egypt. He noted that Abu-Halimah committed his crime in the United States and there is no objection to his standing trial there.

In a statement to journalists concerning the Consultative Council meeting yesterday, Musa said there is no reason for the citizens in Egypt to panic. He noted that the New York explosion caused 1,000 [as published] casualties. He stressed that Egypt will remain the land of peace and security, declaring that most of the perpetrators of the recent incidents have been arrested and are currently facing trial. He also asserted that the security authorities know the whereabouts of the fugitives and will arrest them soon.

Group Linked to 'Abd-al-Rahman Uncovered*NC0304160293 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 31 Mar 93 p 1*

[Report by Najwa 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Text] The security authorities have uncovered a new terrorist group in al-Buayrah Governorate. Police arrested 58 extremists who were propagating the ideas of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, mufti of the al-Jihad Organization. They also seized leaflets, weapons, ammunition, and four hand grenades in the houses of the suspects, who were taken to prison amid strict security measures.

A team of investigators, led by Yasir Rifa'i, Hisham Hamudah, and 'Ali al-Hawwari, began interrogating the suspects, who are prominent members of the al-Jihad Organization. They include students, teachers, and lawyers.

Further investigations, which were supervised by counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud, general inspector of the state security prosecutors, and counselor Muhsin Mabruk, attorney general of the state security prosecutors, revealed that the defendants got acquainted with each other inside a mosque in Damanhur. They formed a secret armed group to overthrow the regime, according to instructions they received from Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. These instructions called for attacks on tourism sites and permitted shedding the blood of foreigners and stealing their money. The defendants also bought firearms, knives, and

hand grenades they intended to use in their terrorist operations. Leaflets openly urging attacks on tourism and police stations were found in their houses. The prosecutor ordered that the defendants be held in prison for 15 days pending the outcome of the investigations.

'Secrets' Claimed in U.S. Ties With 'Abd-al-Rahman*NC0304103593 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 31 Mar 93 p 3*

[From the "Words" column by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Mun'im Murad]

[Text] The issue of Dr. Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman is still a puzzle. One time they say he is involved in the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, another time they say he has connections with the CIA, and yet another time they say he has received huge sums of money from the Iranian Government. There are also several other contradictory rumors. It is only natural that people should wonder about the secrets that permitted him to travel to the United States—I mean enter into the United States. As for his departure from Egypt, it was possible because his name was not on the list of those banned from traveling abroad in accordance with official decisions made by the judiciary.

The question is: Who granted him an entry visa to live in the United States? Was the visa given by the U.S. consulate in Cairo or in Khartoum? Was the visa given in accordance with recommendations by higher U.S. authorities in Washington or was it, as it was claimed, the result of a mistake and inaccurate information?

It may seem to many people that this issue is not important, but in fact it is, because it reveals secrets about a U.S. policy that wears various masks. It feigns goodness but conceals evil, or vice versa. U.S. policy does not often heed principles and ethics because interests come first.

The United States says that it is the greatest democracy on earth, that it is the freest country in the world, and that it is the country that cares the most about human rights. It says that U.S. media is completely free, that U.S. papers can criticize the U.S. government and its policies, and that they can even criticize the U.S. President himself. This is true and there is no question about it. But does this mean that U.S. authorities do not sometimes intercede to spread certain news or comments that U.S. policy makers want to be disseminated for secret reasons? These reports may be published in newspapers, magazines, on the radio or television.

If certain people want to know the true role that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman is playing and the truth about the blast in the World Trade Center in New York, they should first look for the secret behind the murder of former U.S. President John F. Kennedy and the murder of those suspected in his murder. There are secrets in modern U.S. history that no one knows. There are political secrets about U.S. relationship with world countries. There are also personal secrets relating to outstanding and important personalities in various countries. Mystery surrounds the freest country in the world.

U.S. Interests in Solving Mid-East Issue Questioned
NC0304154693 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 1 Apr 93 p 6

[Article by Muhammad Sayyid Ahmad: "Brinkmanship and Resolution"]

[Text] Right after taking office, US President Bill Clinton became aware that the economy was in even worse shape than he had imagined before acquiring access to classified information. He swiftly embarked on an ambitious and courageous reform programme, which is not to the liking of many. But what we are concerned with are the implications of Clinton's reform programme on the United States foreign policy, notably vis-a-vis crisis situations, whether acute, such as Yugoslavia, or endemic, like the Middle East.

Former President Bush gave full priority to the United States' global status after the demise of the Soviet Union. His dream was that the world could become unipolar, and that the United States could be that pole. Bush believed he could build America's eminence on its foreign policy, and the Gulf crisis gave him the opportunity to implement that objective. When he defeated Saddam Husayn, Bush's popularity soared to unprecedented heights.

But his defeat in the 1992 presidential elections revealed that, whatever America's might, whatever the success it had scored in the Gulf, it lacked the prerequisites to become the only world pole. Bush's full concentration on America's global status had backlashed, placing untenable strains and stresses on the American economy. This was the situation Clinton inherited.

The "new world order" was not, as Bush believed it to be, an "order" that America could dominate unchallenged. Rather, it turned out to be some form of "floating world order" with a mesh of competing and interpenetrating poles, none of which has absolute ascendancy over the others. Primacy between the poles is determined by the laws of the market, notably the law of supply and demand. Which of the poles would eventually get the upper hand could not be predicted in advance and made foretelling the course of events impossible. What Fukuyama meant by "the end of history" was probably the end of predictable history.

This unpredictability raises a crucial question: if America is unable to be the unique world pole, does this mean it would be willing to allow others to occupy this position? Would it leave it to the other candidates for world leadership, namely, the European Community or Japan?

There are already obvious signs of acute rivalry between the poles of tomorrow's multipolar world, despite strong "supranational" links that bind them together, mainly the economic links woven by the multinational corporations. Relations between the major economic groupings are already strained by the spectre of trade wars. And it is obvious that it will be difficult to keep a minimum of harmony between these groupings as long as the world game remains floating, with no universally accepted frame of reference.

Thus, if competition between the United States, the European Community and Japan is expected to become more virulent, concomitantly with closer European unity, can the United States be expected to just lie back and allow Europe to acquire more global weight through its unification process, or is it not more likely to react by trying to check Europe's progress towards integration?

Let us consider what happened in Europe throughout 1992. Two opposite trends unfolded simultaneously: a trend towards integration, epitomised in the crucial steps taken towards implementing the Maastricht Treaty, and a trend towards disintegration, that finds its most blatant expression in the escalating Yugoslav crisis. Some analysts believe the Yugoslav crisis is only the tip of the iceberg, and that Europe is riddled with ethnic animosities rooted in its history, which were temporarily repressed by the bipolar world system. With the end of acute global polarisation, these animosities have risen to the surface. Which of these two trends is likely to prevail? And will the US not be tempted to take advantage of this situation?

This raises the interesting question of whether it is in the interest of the new American administration to bring about a speedy ending to the war in Yugoslavia, or whether its interest might not be better served if the Community's progress towards integration is held back by a war raging on its doorstep. Especially at a time the US is unable to play a full role in global politics and is itself held back by its persistent internal economic problems.

Whatever the answer to this question, there are many in Yugoslavia who believe that the US has opted for the second scenario. If they are right, where does this leave the Middle East? Is America really interested in bringing about an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, or would it be more interested in perpetuating it, with America's role as "full partner" a means by which it could maintain a regional presence at a time internal problems prevent it from giving full scope to foreign policy?

Many naive people believe that peace negotiations are a means to achieve an aim, namely peace. But in politics aims are often used as a mean to achieve other aims. While the declared aim could be peace, the real aim could be its pursuit, as a justification for continuing a political presence that would necessarily come to an end once the aim is effectively achieved.

Ambassador Demands Sudan Release Egyptian
NC0404113793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1107 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—A responsible Foreign Ministry source today stated that as part of the ministry's follow-up on the Sudanese regime's measures against Egyptian national Bahjat al-Shurbaji, Egyptian Ambassador in Khartoum Hasan Jad-al-Haqq has raised the issue with high-level officials. The ambassador requested clarification of the Egyptian national's position and demanded his immediate release unless there are legal reasons behind his detention.

The source added that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has given instructions to the appropriate ministry departments to follow up on the matter. He added that Musa is giving the matter due attention.

Morocco

King Receives Iraq's al-Tikriti, Saddam's Message

JN0204185593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco at noon today received His Excellency [Iraqi] President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy Barzan al-Tikriti, who gave him a message from his brother the president.

The audience was attended by Abdellatif Filali, Morocco's minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation; Abdelhadi Bu-Taleb, adviser to His Majesty King Hassan; Ahmed Rida Guedira [advisor to King Hassan]; and the Iraqi ambassador in Rabat.

Al-Takriti Departs After 'Successful' Visit

LD0304142993 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMR 3 Apr 93

[Text] Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, the personal envoy of and adviser to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, left Morocco this morning. On the results of his visit to Morocco, the Iraqi envoy said:

[Begin recording] During our visit to Morocco, we met the brother foreign minister and his majesty the king yesterday. We exchanged views and opinions on bilateral relations between our two sister countries. The assessment of the visit is that it was successful. [end recording]

World Bank Grants \$315 Million Loan

LD0304135693 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Summary from poor reception] Rabat, 3 Apr (MAP)—The director of the Arab Maghreb department at the World Bank announced at a news conference on Thursday evening in Rabat that the bank has agreed to grant Morocco two loans totalling \$315 million for social housing and local council finance.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Says Terrorism Only Against 'Enemies of God'

EA0204175093 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, has confirmed that Hala'ib is Sudanese territory, will remain Sudanese and that Sudan will not relinquish a single inch of it. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said, when addressing a mass rally yesterday in al-Faw, that Sudan has bidden farewell for good to humiliation, relief

aid, and being pawned to foreigners after its ranks were united under the banner: There is no God but God.

He added that the hired and agent radio stations which accuse us of terrorism know that our terrorist camps are camps of the Armed Forces, the People's Defense Forces and those involved in the construction of the Kinanah and al-Rahad canals. He said that Sudan is not involved in terrorism, except against the enemies of God.

Al-Bashir noted the desperate attempts which are being made by some quarters to terrorize and condemn Sudan so that it halts the Summer Crossing campaigns which, they realize, will exterminate Garang and his lackeys. He confirmed that the progress of development march in the south will not stop after the mobilization of the energies of the south for construction and development.

Al-Bashir's Visit to Libya Reportedly Fails

NC0404155193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1503 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Informed sources have disclosed that the visit to Libya by 'Umar al-Bashir, Sudanese Revolution Command Council chairman, did not achieve any of its goals. A report by the foreign information sector of the Sudanese Ummah Party said that Libya requested that al-Bashir take a number of urgent and quick steps if he wants to promote Sudanese-Libyan relations. These steps include barring the Islamic Front from power, agreeing with the Sudanese political movement leaders, improving ties with Egypt, and putting Hasan al-Turabi on trial because he is responsible for several crimes against the Sudanese people and certain Arab countries. The report said that Libya turned down an offer by al-Bashir that committed Iraq to compensate Libya for any quantities of oil that Sudan may get after the United Nations lifts the blockade on Iraq.

Embassy in Nairobi Clarifies Position on Hala'ib Issue

EA0404124093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The Sudanese Embassy in Nairobi has stressed that Sudan has not withdrawn from the negotiations on Hala'ib but submitted the matter to the Security Council and the International Court of Justice when the Egyptian regime refused to commit itself to the agreements reached to solve the problem by peaceful means and resorted to a military solution.

Mr. Abdullah al-Azraq, the information officer at the Sudanese Embassy in Nairobi, said in an article published by the KENYA TIMES [on 2 April], replying to an article by the Egyptian Embassy in Nairobi [published on 25 March], that the Egyptian regime was trying to instigate hatred against Sudan because it continued to pursue independent policies aimed at strengthening its economy and achieving self-sufficiency in food. He added that the Egyptian regime had always worked to distort the image of Sudan in spite of Sudan's positive stands towards the fraternal people of Egypt. He said that the Sudanese people knew that the occupation of Hala'ib by the Egyptian regime was nothing

but an attempt to divert the attention of the Egyptian people from the failing policies of repression and banishment.

The information officer of the Sudanese Embassy in Nairobi expressed his regret over the Egyptian Government's practice of increasing its military presence in Hala'ib and the arresting of Sudanese nationals in Egypt. The Sudan continued to extend its hand to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. He said that the Egyptian Government considered the Sudanization of the Cairo University in Khartoum, where the students are Sudanese, as a provocation. He wondered how the Sudanese Government's commitment to its students could be regarded as a violation of Egyptian law.

Ummah Party Breaks Off Participation in Opposition Group

PM0204140493 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
31 Mar-6 Apr 93 p 17

[Unattributed report: "The Ummah Party Suspends Participation in Sudanese Opposition Meetings"]

[Text] A Sudanese Ummah Party official abroad has revealed that the party has suspended its participation in meetings of the Higher Coordination Committee of the opposition Democratic National Grouping. Hasan Ahmad al-Hasan, member of the party's Executive Bureau, said that the party suspended its membership of the Higher Committee as an expression of its rejection of statements made by some individuals in the name of the Grouping under the so-called "Cairo Declaration."

On the visit to Washington by some Ummah Party leaders, al-Hasan confirmed that the visit was made at the invitation of the new U.S. Administration and some establishments interested in the cause of peace in Sudan. He added that Dr. 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, the party's secretary general, and Mubarak al-Mahdi, chairman of the Executive Bureau, met with former U.S. President Carter, UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, and senior U.S. Administration officials.

Tunisia

Turkish Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Comments on Karabakh Issues

TA0204170393 Nicosia Bayrak Radio in Turkish 1530 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin has asked the United States to intervene as soon as possible regarding the Armenian attacks against Azerbaijan.

Cetin, currently in Tunisia, conducted a telephone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Cetin conveyed to Christopher recent developments concerning the Armenian attacks, underlining the possible adverse consequences of this situation. Christopher, in turn, remarked that his country is opposed to territorial gain through the use of force and that the United States will demand explanations from Armenia regarding the attacks.

Proposes Sanctions on Serbs

TA0304175593 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Following the rejection of the Vance-Owen peace plan by the Serbian parliament in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin has asked that the UN Security Council intensify the sanctions against the Serbs.

In a news conference in Tunisia, where he is currently on an official visit, Cetin stressed that the UN Security Council must now adopt additional measures to prevent bloodshed in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Cetin proposed increasing the inspection flights in order to guarantee compliance with the flight ban over Bosnia-Herzegovina and to relax the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Discusses Mideast, Bosnia

LD0304204093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received in Carthage Palace this morning Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin. [passage omitted]

The Turkish foreign minister pointed out that the meeting covered some international issues, particularly the Middle East and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He pointed out that the stances of the two countries toward these issues are identical.

President Confers With Mubarak on Lockerbie

LD0204200593 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Following his return from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya today, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Presidential Council of the Arab Maghreb Union, this evening conferred by telephone with Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who is about to leave for the United States at the end of his visit to Britain. The conversation touched on the efforts of the two countries to find a peaceful solution to the dispute between the Libya Arab Jamahiriya and some Western states, within the framework of international legitimacy and respect for the interests of all sides.

Western Sahara

Ambassador Explains Sahrawi Stand on UN Plan

LD0404164093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The holding of a referendum on self-determination in the Western Sahara is still facing difficulties. The Sahrawi ambassador [to Algiers] explains to our colleague Tayeb Bouterfif the Sahrawi position following the recent visit of UN special envoy Yaqub Khan:

[Begin recording] [Ambassador] The special envoy was sent in accordance with the request by UN Security Council Resolution 809 adopted on 22 March. His mission had two

objectives: The first objective was to try and find a compromise regarding the huge difference between what is logical and what is illogical. This disagreement is over the identity of the voters. The second objective is to find the appropriate formula to update the lists of the people included in the Spanish census of 1974.

As regards the first point—which is at the root of the huge difference between what is logical and what is illogical—the logic says that the Spanish census of 1974 is the basis on which the identity of the voters can be established. This logic says that anyone who has an official document and who by mistake was not included in the census can be added to the list. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario Front] has made many concessions regarding the implementation of the peace plan as embodied in UN Security Council resolution 690/1971 [as heard].

What is illogical is the claim that there are people who left [Western Sahara] either voluntarily or who were forced to do so by the Spanish authorities. This is the opposite of the logic which used to say that the Sahrawis are only those included in the census of 1974. If we were to go back a long way to search for the tribal origins and people's origins since 1884 to establish who was born in the Sahara in that year or a few decades later and who was not, we would not find any reasonable and logical justification for it.

Thus, the disagreement is that the Moroccan Government is saying, what I call, the illogical, namely that we should go back to the end of the last century to establish who are the Sahrawis and who are not. The United Nations would need decades to establish who is Sahrawi or who comes from this or that tribe. So, the disagreement is about this logic because it was the Rabat government that approached the United Nations with the argument that it would only accept the 1974 census. Consequently, the Polisario accepted this proposal but it was surprised at the last minute, in 1971 [date as heard], to learn that the Moroccan Government had put forward a list including an extra 120,000 people who had not been included in the Spanish census.

The UN special representative came, in this recent tour, to try and bridge the gap between the viewpoints regarding this issue. We in the Polisario Front are determined to adhere to the reasonable logic, namely that if there was any mistake or error in the census the former should not be outside international rule concerning the mistakes which can be made in all censuses.

So, we have conveyed our viewpoint to the special envoy and we are waiting for the arrival of the UN secretary general with the hope that he will help bring the views closer.

[Bouterfif] Your Excellency Mr. Ambassador, what is the idea that was accepted by the UN special envoy to the region and what is the idea that he has taken with him now, regarding ways to find the formula you mentioned earlier?

[Ambassador] The idea was that he came to convey indirectly the viewpoint of the Moroccans and that the gap between the viewpoints on the huge difference I talked about must be bridged.

Second, [efforts must be made] to find a practical formula to update the census of 1974. So, there are only two points. The first point is to try and bridge the gap between the two viewpoints and reach a compromise. The second point concerns the methods of updating the Spanish census.

[Bouterfif] Regarding the mission of the UN special envoy, what is the idea that he has taken with him to the United Nations? Was he optimistic when he left and has the gap between the viewpoints been really bridged?

[Ambassador] For the time being, I do not think that he was optimistic when he left because each side is sticking to its position.

[Bouterfif] So there has not been any progress yet? And is the problem of the voters' lists still outstanding?

[Ambassador] There has not been any progress because the Polisario Front is saying that first of all we should agree to update the Spanish census and then we will discuss the disagreement. It would be inappropriate to discuss the disagreement beforehand and leave aside the issue of the census.

[Bouterfif] What has the Moroccan side suggested?

[Ambassador] The Moroccan side would like to include the issue of the tribes, which would mean that anyone from any tribe coming from the [Western] Sahara or is thought to come from the Sahara should be included in the voters' lists. Moreover, Morocco also insists that any document, whether it was issued by the French, the Spanish, or the Moroccans can be presented by anyone who would like to vote. Obviously we cannot accept this logic because only the Spanish documents which were used in the census and were used for (?so many years) can have a logical justification.

[Bouterfif] So, the solution to this problem still remains remote and you are expecting a visit by the UN secretary general to the region?

[Ambassador] Yes, we are waiting for this visit and we will see. Our optimism is not absolute and we are always ready to cooperate with the United Nations. [end recording]

Kuwait

Minister Speaks Favorably of Damascus Declaration

LD0404120993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1004 GMT
4 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 4 Apr (KUNA)—Finance and Planning Minister Nasir al-Rawdan stressed here today that Kuwait is eager to implement the clauses of the Damascus Declaration. He stated that rumors on the faltering of the declaration are "not quite accurate." Al-Rawdan asserted, in an interview with KUNA, that as far as Kuwait is concerned the Damascus Declaration will always be there; it does not constitute a bloc against anyone but a formula expressing the joint understanding of signatory countries on how to consecrate Arab action on all issues and in all fields within the framework of the Arab League Charter. He added that the countries that are signatories of the declaration are trying, through the principles of the declaration, to create an Arab structure which would be able to confront all challenges and dangers liable to face the Arab nation, like those which Kuwait faced a result of the Iraqi aggression. [passage omitted]

The minister pointed to the existence of other clauses pertaining to the promotion and consolidation of scientific research centers and the facilitation of contacts among the states concerned to enable them to undertake joint research projects in various fields.

Al-Rawdan stressed that the Gulf states' relations with sisters Egypt and Syria did not come about because of the Damascus Declaration; rather, they are deeply rooted fraternal and historical relations. He recalled that the participation of Syria and Egypt in Kuwait's liberation war preceded the issuing of the declaration. [passage omitted]

On the starting date for the implementation of the program for the consolidation of development efforts in the Arab countries, al-Rawdan said that work will begin in May, in accordance with the resolutions of the Gulf Cooperation Council summit in Abu Dhabi. He said implementation will be with the funds available at present, and pointed out that the program is a general 10-year program, not a one-year program. [passage omitted]

Official on Damascus Declaration, POW's, Patriot Missiles

NC0404083293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0653 GMT
4 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)—Shaykh Salim al-Sabah (al-Salim), head of the higher committee in charge of the Kuwaiti POW's, has affirmed that his country does not reject the Damascus Declaration now that it has been ratified by the government and the National Assembly.

In statements to AL-AHRAM newspaper today, he said that the implementation of the declaration's provisions is proceeding well in all aspects, but the man on the street does not notice this. He emphasized that the implementation of the Damascus Declaration is in the interest of the Arab nation and all the countries that signed the declaration.

He said that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid and Rashid Idris, 'Abd-al-Majid's envoy on the POWs issue, have been provided with complete and documented files on all Kuwaiti prisoners held in Iraqi jails. He added that the files include the Iraqi authorities' orders to harass and execute the detainees without trial and that copies of these documents and files have been given to the Red Cross.

He noted that the prisoners held in Iraq include [number indistinct] Egyptians, 14 Saudis, 4 Syrians, 3 Lebanese, 5 Iranians, 3 Indians, a Bahraini, and an Omani.

On the security situation in Kuwait, particularly after the state announced the removal of Patriot missiles from its territory, Shaykh Salim said that the internal security situation is stable. The military, he added, has its own view on deploying or removing the missiles to ensure security, and we do not interfere with its work or link any action to stability or instability.

Government Welcomes Continued UN Sanctions Against Iraq

LD0404152093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1434 GMT
4 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 4 Apr (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers today welcomed the UN Security Council's resolution on continuing the sanctions imposed on the Iraqi regime and praised the full implementation of the international resolutions. This was expressed at a session chaired by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd-al-'Abdallah-al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister.

Qatar

Lebanese Foreign Minister Arrives

JN0104201893 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1930 GMT
1 Apr 93

[Text] Doha, 1 Apr (WAKH)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz arrived in Doha this evening on a visit to the State of Qatar.

In an arrival statement, the Lebanese foreign minister said he will discuss with Qatari officials ways of promoting bilateral cooperation. He said the two sides will review Middle East peace, regional and international developments, as well as ways of enhancing Arab solidarity and closing ranks in the face of current developments. [passage indistinct]

Holds News Conference

JN0204141593 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT
2 Apr 93

[Text] Doha, 2 Apr (WAKH)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has asserted that Israel is not serious about achieving real peace, adding that the Arab parties, proceeding from this fact, have asked Washington to reaffirm the commitments it made in the letters of assurances and its

commitments toward the constant foundations of the peace process, especially with regard to the U.S. role as a catalyst for peace.

In a news conference held here last night, Buwayz stressed that sitting at the negotiating table is not important if there is no substance that can be crystallized or made successful. He added that if the negotiations do not yield tangible and serious results, then they will be taking the parties and the peace process lightly.

Buwayz emphasized Arab insistence on a just, comprehensive peace and on the mechanism of the peace process, especially Washington's active role. He added that the Arab side wants clarifications about the constant principles of the peace process, and the purpose for which the Arabs joined the talks.

With regard to Resolution 425 calling on Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon, Buwayz said that this resolution has no direct connection with Resolution 242, which was issued after it. Lebanon, therefore, need not ask for its separation because it is a separate resolution and requires Israel to withdraw from southern Lebanon immediately, fully, and unconditionally. Lebanon has no obligations under Resolution 425, while Resolution 242 talks about comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Buwayz said Israel's implementation of Resolution 425 would lend credibility to the Middle East peace process, since it is an unequivocal, independent resolution that does not allow for interpretation.

Speaking about the recent Damascus meeting of foreign ministers from the cordon states, the Lebanese foreign minister said the meeting was suspended pending further clarifications and until the picture gets clearer, pointing out that there are several ambiguous points. He noted that much is being said in the United States, Europe, and even at the United Nations, about a commitment to promote Resolution 799 calling for the return of the Palestinian deportees. He affirmed, however, that the Arabs have not received any clear assurances on implementing this resolution.

Buwayz added: We are now awaiting [Egyptian] President Mubarak's visit to Washington, as well as the outcome of exploratory tours being made by the delegations participating in the peace talks. In light of this and based on the assurances we will receive, we will adopt an appropriate stand concerning participation in the next round of peace talks.

Amir Receives Lebanese Minister

JN0304123293 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT
3 Apr 93

[Text] Doha, 3 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, this morning received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, currently on a visit to Doha.

The Qatari News Agency has said that talks dealt with the cordial relations between Qatar and Lebanon and ways to promote them in the interest of both countries. Talks also dealt with developments of the Middle East peace process

regarding the resumption of negotiations and the ninth round of peace talks in Washington. The two sides also discussed the situation in Lebanon after peace was achieved at home and after security and stability returned to various Lebanese areas. They also stressed the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for a total Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Talks With Foreign Minister

JN0304140293 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT
3 Apr 93

[Text] Doha, 3 Apr (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani today conferred with his Lebanese counterpart Faris Buwayz.

As well as bilateral ties, they discussed Arab and world developments, focusing on the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Buwayz arrived in Doha Thursday.

Views Talks, U.S. Positions

NC0404091193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in
Arabic 0845 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who is visiting Qatar, has told REUTER that Lebanon will not participate in the ninth round of bilateral negotiations unless the Palestinian deportees issue is resolved.

He noted that Arab delegations representing the states concerned with these negotiations will visit Washington next week to learn how the U.S. Government really stands on the negotiations.

Buwayz believes that the U.S. positions, as expressed by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, are contradictory and require clarification.

Jordan's Ambassador Conveys King Husayn Message to Amir

JN0404163293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in
Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Nayif al-Qadi, ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the State of Qatar, conferred with Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani, the foreign minister, and conveyed to him a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, dealing with the tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At the meeting, the ambassador referred to the good bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries and peoples, and asked the minister to convey his majesty's congratulations to his highness the amir on the occasion of his recovery from a recent illness.

Discussions also dealt with current Arab developments and the Arab countries' position on the peace process, including the need to intensify Arab efforts to support the Arab parties taking part in the process.

Saudi Arabia

Lebanese President Arrives in Jeddah

LD0304150493 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi of Lebanon arrived in Jeddah this afternoon. King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, was on hand to welcome his excellency at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport. [passage omitted] The Lebanese president is accompanied by Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, Information Minister Michel Samahah, and a number of officials.

President Holds Meeting With King

LD0404104993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2150 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Jeddah, 3 Apr (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon, held a meeting at the al-Salam Palace this evening. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh region; His Royal Highness Prince Majid Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Mecca region; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Ibrahim al-'Anqari, private adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information and escort of the guest; and Hisham Muhyi al-Din Nazir, minister of oil and mineral resources.

On the Lebanese side the meeting was attended by Minister of Defense Muhsin Dallul, Information Minister Michel Samaha, Lebanese ambassador Zuhayr Hamdan, public security director Simon Rafael, Butrus Labki, deputy chairman of the Reconstruction and Development Council, and Makram 'Uwaydat, ambassador at the central administration at the Foreign Ministry.

Comments on Visit

NC0404123393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] During a news conference held in Jeddah today, President Ilyas al-Hirawi said that his visit to Saudi Arabia resulted in positive aspects and promises, but he declined to disclose these promises and said he preferred to wait until they materialize. He added that Saudi King Fahd asked Dr. Butrus Labaki, deputy chairman of the Council for Reconstruction and Development, to stay behind in Saudi Arabia to follow up discussion on the reconstruction projects in Lebanon. He pointed out that he will continue his Arab tour once the necessary dates have been set. He stressed that if the march of reconstruction and development begins in Saudi Arabia, it means it also will get in motion in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Kuwait.

Asked about the launching of the international and Arab fund for Lebanon's reconstruction, al-Hirawi said: The fund was launched in Saudi Arabia after having been established by the Arab Tripartite Committee [commission made up of Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Morocco to sponsor the al-Ta'if

Accord]. The events in the Gulf, in the former Soviet Union at that time, and now in Yugoslavia have obstructed the fund's activity, but does this mean we will keep waiting for the fund and continue to suffer from the war? He added: Until the fund issue crystallizes, the Lebanese people have ambitions and intend to realize them. He added: I call on the Lebanese who invest their capital abroad to return to the homeland and invest their money there.

Al-Hirawi pointed out that King Fahd instructed his foreign minister to reopen the Saudi Embassy in Beirut soon. He also agreed to a request to let the families of Lebanese working in Saudi Arabia join their spouses. The king also ordered that Lebanese seeking employment in Saudi Arabia be given entry visas to the Kingdom.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD0404145793 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Ilyas Hirawi of Lebanon and the delegation accompanying him left Jeddah this afternoon following a visit to the kingdom. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Lebanese President Leaves Following Talks

JN0104143693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1330 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Apr (WAKH)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi left Abu Dhabi this evening following a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. His Highness Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE deputy prime minister, saw off the Lebanese president and the accompanying delegation.

President al-Hirawi held talks with His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, dealing with several issues of interest to both sides.

Further Travel Plans

JN0504095093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0650 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Apr (WAKH)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left Abu Dhabi for Beijing early this morning on a visit to the PRC lasting several days.

During his PRC visit, Buwayz will hold talks with senior Chinese officials dealing with bilateral relations, the situation in Lebanon, the Middle East peace process, and ways to implement the two UN Security Council resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and repatriation of the Palestinian deportees, currently present on Lebanese territory.

Illegal Immigrants From Iran, Afghanistan Seized

NC0304093893 Paris AFP in English 0850 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 3 (AFP)—United Arab Emirates (UAE) police have seized 15 illegal immigrants who said they were from Iran and Afghanistan, a police spokesman said Saturday.

The men arrived on an Iranian speedboat and were seized Thursday on the small island of Ghanadah close to the Abu Dhabi coast, he told AFP.

"We seized them on the island, where they spent the night after arriving from the Iranian island of Qeshm. They do not have any identity papers but they said they were Iranians and Afghans," he said.

The spokesman said the speedboat owner paid to deliver them to Abu Dhabi escaped. "He put them on Ghanadah and told them it was Abu Dhabi. They believed him when they saw the lights on the island, where some shaykhs have palaces."

More than 1,000 illegal immigrants in search of jobs, notably from Iran and Pakistan, have been seized over the past year. Most of them were nabbed on the more vulnerable eastern coast of the UAE, in the Gulf of Oman.

Saddam Addresses al-Qadisiyah Tribal Chieftains

JN0404132393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1252 GMT
4 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has hailed the sons of his proud people on the second anniversary of the victory, which they achieved through their brave fighting, heroic jihad, and rare patience, over the imperialist and Zionist forces during the historic epic of the Mother of Battles.

His excellency said that the enemies thought that after the violent fighting and the unjust blockade, they would be able to paralyze the Iraqis' will and steadfastness.

In a speech he delivered after tribal chieftains and figures from al-Qadisiyah Governorate swore allegiance to Iraq and the people's revolution and its noble principles, President Saddam Husayn added that the evildoers' intentions and wicked plans were once again crushed on the rock of strength, pride, and the unity the sons of great Iraq have built.

His excellency stressed that victory was achieved by the sons of Iraq in the historic duel—the Mother of Battles—and in the chapters of direct aggression, treachery, and renegade actions.

The gathering chanted slogans, waving the rifles of victory and the banners of strength, and stressing the governorate's loyalty to President Saddam Husayn and great Iraq.

Saddam Remarks to Dhi Qar Delegation Reported

JN0204201593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1849 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Remarks by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to a delegation of clerics, tribal chiefs, and notables from Dhi Qar Governorate; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] I wish you a happy 'Id; I hope that when the occasion next comes round you and the people will be armed with increased faith and pride. The history of your Arab nation and people is rich in noble values. The most salient feature of your cheers and your poems which I have just heard is noble values. Noble values will survive after, if we rely on God. Whoever takes you for allies will not be disappointed. [applause] Whoever relies on God and solicits your support and that of the Iraqis cannot be disappointed, God willing.

Yours is a big country; God is great, and you are, God willing, believers. Therefore, Iraq is not to be worried about. Any deviation from the right path will be corrected.

The state of affairs in the north must be seen in the context of the area's special circumstances. Iraq has been through many difficulties since it taught humanity the alphabet, to quote a poet. The first lesson—the spoken word—originated in Dhi Qar. The history of this country is known both to its people and to the world. We can boast the most ancient civilization on earth. When the land can boast the most ancient civilization and continues to survive, then the matter of five, four, three, or 10 years cannot alter its name, value, or station.

Those who fail to grasp the significance of these values are the ones who are chasing a mirage, imagining it to be water. For those who appreciate these values and rely on God, Iraq will not change.

Iraq has a history, geography, and a stand. The geography is well known, and history in its essence is constant, and there will not be any straying from the values that I have mentioned. As for the stand, it is yours, your brothers', and your people's in every place.

As for when your brothers and fellow citizens in northern Iraq will make a stand, it is in their consciences, having taken form in their minds. As for when this will actually happen, you will see that it will in good time and, as a result, quite a few people—and I do not mean the Iraqis—will be surprised to see how things have changed for the better, God willing.

God willing, glory and deep faith will be your lot. Palestine is Arab, and is home to the holy city of Jerusalem; the root will inevitably grow to be a tree. When there are believers who persevere in their faith and are ever ready for sacrifice, changes will not turn facts upside down, nor will history change its course for anything but the better.

May the citizens of Dhi Qar live long; convey my greetings to them. [applause and cheers]

WASHINGTON POST Cited on Change in U.S. Policy

JN0304122893 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 28 March 93
p 2

[Text] Washington—Today, Saturday [day as published] THE WASHINGTON POST cites government and diplomatic sources as saying that the U.S. Administration no longer stresses the need to change the [Iraqi] political regime as a precondition for lifting the international embargo on Iraq. The paper adds that the U.S. Government will issue a statement on Monday defining the White House's stand toward Baghdad. This statement will attempt to remove the personalization of the conflict and explain that the United States no longer focuses on its previous intransigent attitudes.

The sources added that the U.S. statement will indicate other preconditions for lifting the sanctions and that Baghdad will reject them. The paper said that the new U.S. stand toward Iraq was discussed with the British, French, and Russian Governments in addition to UN officials.

Reaction to Clinton's Statements on Iraq

JN0304131193 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
29 Mar 93 p 2

["Behind the Events" column by Dr. Majid 'Abd-al-Rida: "Clinton...A Diplomatic Chess Game"]

[Text] Today, Monday, 29 March, is the date for the regular review of the extent of Iraq's implementation of the UN resolutions related to cease-fire in the Gulf war.

Before the aforementioned date, on Saturday, 27 March, the news media carried statements attributed to U.S. President Clinton in which he strongly stressed that his government still maintains a strict policy against Iraq, and that it will not relent regarding the implementation of the cease-fire terms. These statements dealt with issue in general without specifying the terms which Iraq implemented or did not implement. The news media termed these statements as a message from Clinton to Iraq to comply with the UN resolutions.

It is worth noting that during a meeting with four of the envoys of the UN Security Council permanent member states, Iraq's UN Ambassador Nizar Hamdun received verbal warnings to Iraq against seizing the opportunity of the arrival of a new administration in Washington to carry out some provocative actions, which, if they were to occur, would be confronted with a decisive reply. Ambassador Hamdun was also informed that Iraq has not fulfilled its obligations in accordance with the cease-fire resolutions. This has paved the way for going ahead with the UN resolutions related to the blockade and to other issues. Moreover, the U.S., British, French, and Russian envoys' call on Iraq to comply with the UN resolutions has coincided with warning Iraq against carrying out any provocative act which would be confronted with a decisive reply. All this took place only three days before a routine discussion of the sanctions imposed on Iraq. It also coincided with the confirmation that the UN Security Council will not relent. Through all this, some reports leaked and generated expectations that Clinton would give up the condition of toppling President Saddam Husayn as a prelude to implementing [as published] the sanctions.

The last issue explains this U.S. escalation against our country despite the fact that there is nothing new necessitating this escalation. The aforementioned is similar to someone who retreats under the smoke of defensive hand grenades. The media called this a diplomatic chess game. This sudden escalation is a cover for adopting a sound and responsible stand toward giving up the call for toppling the Iraqi president. It is a sound and necessary step to clear the atmosphere of international relations, especially since it is [the call for toppling the Iraqi president] a serious approach based on interference in an important affair related to Iraq's national sovereignty, as well as to its people who enjoy the indisputable right to chose their president and government system.

Instead of redressing the serious approach of interfering in the affairs of an independent state that is a founding member of the United Nations, the Arab League, and the World Islamic Conference, clearly and frankly, Mr. Clinton leaked this through a fabricated campaign about Iraq's noncompliance with the terms of the cease-fire which stopped the aggression against our country.

We hoped that Mr. Clinton, who is the President of the United States, had expressed his intention to turn a new leaf of relations with our country which would end the injustice our country is being exposed to through the unjust blockade which included even medicine, food, and basic life needs. We still hope for this, especially since Iraq has more than once expressed its readiness to establish good and fruitful

relations that are useful to all the parties concerned, the international community, the United Nations, and to the United States itself. We believe that this enjoys the support of the majority of the American people, who did not vote for Bush who opted for aggression and blockade, and voted for Mr. Clinton.

Despite all that has been mentioned above, we still expect, with open hearts and good intentions, that relations between our country and each of the United Nations and the United States, go back to normal. Despite that all that has been inflicted on us, we are still able to pick the positive signs in spite of the smoke of the strict media campaigns.

UNSC Urged To Reconsider Resolutions, Compliance

JN0404090693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT
4 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH urges the UN Security Council [UNSC] to respond favorably to Iraq's legitimate call for the immediate start of efforts to conduct a comprehensive and objective assessment of the extent of Iraq's implementation of the relevant UNSC resolutions, particularly Resolution 687, away from tendentious political stands.

In an article published today, the paper adds: The UNSC should have reconsidered all its anti-Iraq resolutions, foremost among which is the unfair embargo resolution, which contravenes all international conventions and norms and constitutes a glaring violation of human rights. It should, the paper notes, review these resolutions and discuss the extent of Iraq's compliance with them since the cease-fire in late February 1991 up to date.

The paper urges the UNSC to shoulder its historic and humanitarian responsibilities, and to respond favorably to Iraq's legitimate call so that it may remove part of the danger posed to the credibility of the United Nations, particularly after it has come under U.S. domination and after the employment of double standards to handle international and regional issues has become glaringly obvious in its conduct and performance.

Concluding its article, the paper says: Iraq is forging ahead firmly, determinedly, and resolutely toward reconstruction, development, and progress, and also toward the defense of its independence, sovereignty, and the freedom of its people. As for evildoers who lack the most basic values, who are lacking in respect for their fellow human beings, and who have become victims of their own evil instincts, their efforts will only be met with failure, defeat, and disappointment.

Comments on Sanctions, U.S. Policy

JN0304133893 Baghdad INA in English 1235 GMT
3 April 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 3, INA—THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER has said that the United Nations Security

Council has recently issued a decision extending the economic sanctions against Iraq alleging that it is not complying with the Security Council resolutions.

A paper article for today said the extension of the sanctions against Iraq came under very vague circumstances. Two weeks before the extension decision, it was reported that U.S. President Bill Clinton had suggested that a public session should be held by the Security Council to discuss the sanctions on Iraq and a high-ranking Iraqi delegation should attend the session.

However, only few days after Mr Clinton's proposal, it was announced by the Security Council that it would hold so-called unofficial discussions to tackle the economic sanctions against Iraq, discussions that would be followed by a meeting of the council to extend the sanctions, the paper elaborated.

It affirmed apparently, there are certain circles in the Security Council which want the sanctions against Iraq to be prolonged. They are evidently the same circles which have been practicing pressure on the council member-states not to show any leniency towards Iraq.

Pretexts by some Security Council members for extending the sanctions remain as weak as many U.N. resolutions on Iraq. The main pretext is that Baghdad is not complying with the U.N. resolutions.

The paper said, the U.N. Security Council's resolutions are concentrating on inspecting and destroying Iraq's weapons. Ironically many U.N. inspectors who visited Iraq have stressed that Baghdad is cooperating with their missions. Most recently the head of an interim-monitoring U.N. Team Nikita Smedovech (Russia) told reporters in Baghdad that Iraq is fully cooperating with his team and providing all necessary information required by the team.

Also the head of a nuclear inspection team and an expert at the International Atomic Energy Agency Zeferero (Italian) had affirmed that Iraq's nuclear programme is zero now.

What else Iraq could do to comply with the U.N. resolutions? The question is simple, but one doubts whether the U.N. Special Commission in charge of the trade sanctions against Iraq can have a definite answer.

The paper stressed that Iraq's retaliation against the extension of the sanctions was expressed by the government's bids to exert more efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in essential commodities.

The Iraqis' answer to such an unjust step was the completion of the Fifth River in southern Iraq. The river will irrigate more than half a million donums of arable land in southern Iraq. The river is expected to considerably increase agricultural crops particularly wheat and rice, the paper confirmed.

The sanctions will not stay forever. Sooner or later, Iraq will achieve self-sufficiency in various fields and as would make the sanctions lose their functions. And then, the very countries which are now pressing on continuing the sanctions will be the first to call for lifting them, the paper concluded.

Sanctions Denounced, UNSC Criticized

JN0404134893 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT
4 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr.4, INA—On March 29, the UN Sanctions Commission voted on extending the embargo against Iraq for another two months in what it described as a necessary move to counter Iraq's alleged non-compliance with U.N. Resolutions, the BAGHDAD OBSERVER said in its today article.

It added: In insisting that again it was Iraq's "non-compliance" with UN resolutions which prompted the decision, this UN body is distancing itself from logic given the cooperation so far shown by the Iraqi side to see those UN resolutions implemented.

To a certain extent, there had been great expectations in Iraq and in the Arab world that the embargo, in place for more than two and a half years now, would be lifted through a possible shift of attitude by the new American Administration. This, had it materialized, would have alleviated the suffering of a civilian population under extreme hardships and would have ushered a new era of peace and development, the paper elaborated.

It confirmed that, yet, the decision to maintain the sanctions came as no surprise for the Iraqis. This is because this very commission, and since the imposition of the embargo, has shown an anti-Iraq hostile attitude and hence an unprecedented resolve to keep the sanctions in place.

The paper further said a brief look at the history of the Sanctions Commission would testify to the fact that such decisions are usually premediated and the backstage for anti-Iraq decisions has always been set in the run-up to this committee's meetings. Telling examples of Western circles warming political climate up against Iraq and numerous.

However, one can safely say that extending the blockade cannot achieve the goals sought by the other camp. The Iraqis have come out to reject the concept of despair. Reconstruction and restructuring the country's economy have scored unparalleled achievement. War-devastated installations have been rendered operational in no time, the paper said.

This, indeed, has foiled the U.S.-designed anti-Iraq schemes. The aggressors, since the beginning of the war, have been targeting Iraq's chances for development. Now, two years after the war, their target continues to be Iraq's reconstruction effort. A European diplomat has summed it up when he said: "The West has underestimated Iraq's ability to survive."

Yet, restoring normal trade and political ties with the world remains Iraq's essential goal and, hence, the need to fully defeat the embargo.

The paper stressed a radical shift in policy by the Security Council's permanent member-states against Iraq is the only way to contribute to a durable peace in a war-plagued region.

Reaction to Hints at Iraq's Role in NY Explosion

JN0304124793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0818 GMT
3 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—BABIL has expressed its astonishment at the insinuation through which American quarters are trying to shuffle cards to suggest that Iraq could be a suspect in the New York skyscraper explosion. In an article appearing today and headlined "The Skyscraper and the Suspicious Insinuation," BABIL says: In its confrontation with the unjust American policy, Iraq moves from chivalrous positions unfamiliar to the American quarters that are waving with false charges. These quarters, meanwhile, are aware that, in its confrontations, Iraq does not opt for such disguised methods nor follows terrorism because it wages its confrontations as a knight.

BABIL adds: We are aware of the objective of these quarters which know full well that there are people who carry Iraqi citizenship, and at the same time, do not believe in the existing revolutionary regime in Iraq. Despite this fact, these quarters are trying to make plots and create slander to suggest that Iraq is embroiled in the skyscraper explosion.

The paper stresses that Iraq differentiates between struggle and terrorism. Iraq, the paper adds, is so vigilant that such matters can neither deceive it nor can incorrect views or shallow assessments affect it. Iraq, which is the bastion of struggle and revolution, as well as the supporter of mujahidin, is the one which cautions more than anyone else against the irresponsible operations.

Concluding, BABIL says: The United States knows this full well and the Mother of Battles is the evidence.

Regime Involvement Denied

NC0304113193 Paris AFP in English 1032 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, April 3 (AFP) - Iraq on Saturday denied any link to the World Trade Centre bombing in New York, insisting it never resorted to terrorism.

New York police have issued an arrest warrant for a 25-year-old Iraqi, Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf, on suspicion of involvement in the February 26 bombing which killed six people and injured 1,000 others.

"Despite the fact that the suspicions against this Iraqi are weak, certain American circles are trying to fabricate an accusation aimed at causing prejudice to Iraq," said the official daily BABIL.

The newspaper run by 'Udayy Husayn, son of President Saddam Husayn, condemned any bid to link Iraq to the attack. "Iraq does not resort to terrorist methods," it said.

The U.S. television network, CBS, said Thursday investigators had not ruled out that the bombing could have been carried out in revenge for the U.S. missile strikes on Iraq on January 17, during which a Baghdad hotel was hit.

Three Arab co-defendants of Yusuf are under arrest and will stand trial on September 14.

U.S. Airspace 'Violations' Protested to UN

JN0404111493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT
4 Apr 93

[Text] New York, 4 Apr (INA)—Iraq has again lodged a protest with the United Nations over violations of its airspace by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance and harassment.

In a letter delivered to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations explained that during the period 26-31 March, U.S. aircraft conducted 457 air sorties over northern and southern Iraq at various speeds and altitudes. He added that a hostile reconnaissance plane flew over the city of al-Basrah on Wednesday [31 March] and then disappeared over the al-Nukhayb area.

'Violations' Reported to Arab League

JN0404111293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0716 GMT
4 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that U.S., British, and French aircraft, taking off from air bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, have violated the sanctity of Iraqi airspace, posing serious threats to Iraq's security and national sovereignty.

In a letter addressed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that U.S., British, and French aircraft, flying from these bases, conducted 243 hostile air sorties over Iraqi territory on 29, 30, and 31 March.

Iraq requested that the letter be circulated among the Arab League members so that they may be aware of these regrettable incidents. A list detailing these violations was attached to the letter.

Regime Reportedly Extending Oil Pipeline to Iran

NC0204190493 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The Iraqi regime is currently trying to extend an oil pipeline from the [word indistinct] oil area in Khanaqin to the Iranian border. Our sources affirm that the regime's institutions have been busy for some time trying to complete this project. The pipeline will be extended to the Iranian area of [name indistinct]. They noted that hundreds of trucks are transporting oil, cement, dates, and chemical fertilizers to Iran daily via the Khanaqin-Qasr Shirin road. In return, hundreds of trucks loaded with Iranian food stuffs enter Iraq.

It should be recalled that the United States has recently submitted a report about violation of the economic sanctions against Iraq along the Iraqi-Iranian borders. But Iranian officials have affirmed their commitment to implement the economic sanctions against Iraq.

Live-Fire Exercise Held With Air Force Participation

JN0304193193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, today attended the Bout of the Brave live-fire tactical exercise. The exercise was carried out by the ('Sa'd Bin-Durrah) formation and the affiliated units of the heroic Muhammad al-Qasim Forces within the al-Rashid Forces operations sector.

At the outset, a meeting was held for command and coordination, during which the fighter staff major general commander of the Muhammad al-Qasim Forces, staff officers, and the commander of the participating formation, gave detailed a description of the nature and course of the exercise and the lessons learned from it.

Afterward, the combatants of the formation units set out with high morale to carry out their duties. At the same time, the dauntless fighters of the Air Force gave fire support to the participating units by hitting front, deep, and reserve targets of the opposite forces, turning their targets into scattered debris.

The knights of the Army Air Force performed their mission successfully with their large-scale participation, by transporting the units of the stalwarts to the area of their targets, in addition to providing direct, effective fire support, which caused major hits on the targets.

The zealous men of the artillery also gave accurate and quick fire support during the mission, through which they embodied good training and appropriate reactions.

Afterward, extensive discussions were held among the attending fighters and those who participated in the exercise, focusing on the ideal execution of the field courses and the best way to make use of the rich lessons taught by Saddam's glorious al-Qadisiyah [war with Iran] and the great confrontation of the immortal Mother of Battles.

Addressing the fighters, the defense minister said: The constructive discussions during the course of the tactical exercise are of use to everybody, because they give you different views and a good opportunity to find appropriate solutions to various field problems, theoretically and scientifically. Consequently, this will upgrade the performance of the fighters in the future.

At the end of the exercise, the fighter defense minister saw on the spot one of the planes shot down instantly by our valiant air defenses. He praised the accuracy of the fighters and their best use of weapons in the field.

The exercise was attended by fighter Staff Gen. Iyad Futayyih Khalifah, Army chief of staff; senior field commanders and officers; and the comrade major general secretary of the al-Rashid Military Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'ith Party.

Opposition on Regime Attack, 'Extermination Campaign'

NC0204151393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The forces of the tyrant Saddam Husayn launched an attack on al-Shafi and (al-Shush) in the al-'Amarah marshlands, opening fire indiscriminately on the citizens. In a recently released statement, opposition sources said that the forces of the ostracized regime set fire to the houses, looted the villagers' belongings, arrested all the citizens, and transferred them to an unknown destination.

Eyewitnesses said that after the tyrant's forces withdrew from the two villages, they found six corpses and buried them.

The ostracized regime is continuing its ugly extermination campaign against the Iraqi citizens in the marshlands with complete disregard for UN calls to halt the campaign of persecution and repression.

Regime Said To Conceal Weapons in Fields Near Baghdad

NC0204190393 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Our sources in Baghdad report that the Iraqi regime has hidden some of its deadly weapons in the al-Za'faraniyah fields and farms near Baghdad. Regime officials ordered the farm owners in al-Za'faraniyah to close their houses and to return to them after three months. The sources added that the officials told the farm owners that this is part of the campaign that has been launched under the name of "For a New and More Beautiful Baghdad." They made them pledge not to say anything about the matter.

The farm and field owners have affirmed that tunnels have been dug in their farms, and that the regime has hidden its deadly weapons inside these tunnels. They explained that the regime hides its weapons from UN inspectors in other farms and fields around Baghdad, and even in squares and playgrounds.

Mass Grave Discovered at Army Site in Kurdistan

LD0304101793 Tehran IRNA in English 0527 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] London, April 3, IRNA—The evidence in form of a video footage, the first of its kind, shows a mass graveyard measuring 7,500 square metres discovered earlier this week at a site located at the former headquarters of Iraqi Fifth Army Corps outside the city of Arbil, in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The footage, videotape of which has been made available by the Iraqi National Congress here in London, shows 7,500 Iraqi soldiers as well as civilians buried in several unnamed graveyards. Corpses appear dressed with their own clothing, which together with the shallow depth of the graveyards, seem to suggest that their burial took place hastily and in clandestine conditions.

With United Nations officers also present in the area, the footage also shows amongst others the governor of Arbil, Abdul Muhaymim Barzani, stating that the bodies are Arabs from southern and central Iraq.

Further exhumations of the bodies is to be conducted by forensic scientist, but early estimates of when the actual killings and burial took place point to two to three years ago.

This new evidence will be included amongst a catalogue of mass killings and murders amongst other crimes committed by the Iraqi Army, both against their own civilians as well as the soldiers not entirely faithful to the Ba'athist cause. This will add further impetus for the eventual trial of the Iraqi

regime and its past and present officials for committing crimes against humanity, even though that may come too late to save the lives of many.

Kurdistan Artillery Returns Fire at Regime's Forces

NC0304120093 (*Clandestine Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic* 1600 GMT 2 Apr 93)

[Text] Four two hours on 1 April, the dictatorial regime's forces shelled with large-caliber artillery the areas of (Saf-askar), [placename indistinct], (Kani Makki), (Dafdul), Zaydan, and Karawah. The Kurdistan forces' artillery returned fire and silenced the enemy's guns.

U.S. Believed To Back Stronger EC-PLO Contacts

TA0404045193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Sources in Jerusalem believe that the U.S. has encouraged a number of European states to strengthen their ties with the PLO. Qol Yisra'el's political affairs correspondent says this belief was strengthened following last week's meeting between Israeli leaders and the European Community troika delegation. Jerusalem also believes after the talks that the Palestinians will travel to the peace negotiations in Washington later this month.

The Palestinians, Egypt, and Syria are strengthening their ties with Europe as a back up in the event that they become dissatisfied with the Clinton administration's position. The Jerusalem sources believe that the European support a number of key Arab positions, including the right of return and international inspection on Israeli nuclear facilities.

[A report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz on Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 4 April adds: "At the same time, Jerusalem is very satisfied with the troika's visit depending on who you talk to. The Foreign Ministry is more satisfied than the Prime Minister's Office which does not attribute much importance to the visit."]

Reportage on Plans for Rabin-Mubarak Meeting

Mubarak Said Interested in Talks

TA0404050193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Two remarks Egyptian President Husni Mubarak made over the weekend, that he is interested in meeting Prime Minister Rabin soon, received support from a message to this effect the Egyptian ambassador has delivered to the prime minister's bureau. Our political correspondent notes that Ambassador Basyuni announced that President Mubarak is interested in meeting Mr. Rabin after concluding his U.S. visit. The time and place of the meeting has not yet been determined.

Meaning of Meeting Offer Viewed

TA0404110993 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Mubarak Is Waiting for Rabin"]

[Text] Did President Mubarak declare his wish to meet with the Israeli prime minister just to cushion his way to Washington? Does he no longer demand Israeli concessions as a condition for such a meeting and really means to exchange views to promote the peace talks?

If that is indeed what he has in mind and if such a proposal is relayed to Jerusalem through official channels there is no reason why the prime minister should not accept it.

Yitzhaq Rabin is known to be less enthusiastic than other ministers about an excessive Egyptian involvement in the peace process. True to his beliefs, he attaches great importance only to the sponsorship and involvement of the

United States, and he doubts that al-Asad is pleased about the Egyptian mediation efforts.

However, when Mubarak praises the Rabin government's adherence to the peace process despite the closure on the territories and the Army's intense operations and with total disregard to what the Islamic fanatics in his country might think, only good can come out of the proposed summit meeting.

The date set for the resumption of the talks is not far off. We must stretch out our hand and cooperate with anybody likely to increase the prospects of their resumption. All the more so if the man in question is Mubarak.

Rabin Agrees To Meet Mubarak

TA0404134493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports that during today's cabinet session Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he will gladly meet Egyptian President Husni Mubarak anytime. Mr. Rabin emphasized, however, that no date has been determined for such a meeting yet, despite the fact that the Egyptians already approached Israel on this issue.

Meeting Planned for Egypt After Passover

TA0504073993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, yesterday examined the logistics of holding a meeting between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Rabin prior to the resumption of peace negotiations on 20 April. Following Basyuni's meetings yesterday, it appears that the meeting will be held in Egypt after Passover. An official announcement on the Rabin-Mubarak meeting is expected following the Mubarak-Clinton meeting in Washington on Tuesday [6 April]. This will be Rabin's second trip to Egypt since entering office; the first visit took place only several days after his appointment as prime minister.

Political sources in Jerusalem defined Egypt's role in the political process as follows: After the Arab foreign ministers' meeting held recently Egypt represents for Israel all the Arab sides which are interested in advancing the peace process.

President Mubarak will ask Rabin what concessions Israel is willing to make on the Palestinian track, if and when the negotiations are resumed. Mubarak will also convey messages from President al-Asad regarding the Syrian track. A hint regarding these messages can be gleaned in Mubarak's interview with TIME magazine, in which he said President al-Asad is interested in a full peace treaty.

Egyptian Envoy Predicts 'Fruitful' Meeting

TA0504104893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni says a general agreement has been reached on a meeting

between President Mubarak and Prime Minister Rabin some time before 20 April. Basyuni said however that the time and place for such a meeting have not yet been established. Dani Gur-Arye reports:

[Begin recording] [Gur-Arye] A meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and President Mubarak would push the peace process along and may help end the standoff over the resumption of negotiations on 20 April. So says Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel. Basyuni says the summit meeting may take place in Cairo or somewhere in Sinai.

[Basyuni] First of all, the meeting itself—the idea is in; because it will be very useful and fruitful, especially as it will come after the visit of President Mubarak to the United States and also after the visit of Mr. Rabin to the States. Especially in this crucial time which we need to exchange views and ideas how to make progress and a breakthrough in the peace process. About the timing itself, no date till now, and after the president will come back we will discuss the timing.

[Gur-Arye] And the venue? Do we know if it will be in Cairo or perhaps Sinai?

[Basyuni] Maybe in Cairo, maybe in Sinai, also not yet decided.

[Gur-Arye] President Mubarak is currently in Washington for a meeting with U.S. President Clinton. Basyuni said Mubarak would raise issues pertinent to the peace process on behalf of all the Arab states.

[Basyuni] President Mubarak is speaking on behalf of all the Arab countries concerned in the peace process. So it will be an important meeting to express our views how to achieve the comprehensive peace, a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in our area. The second issue is the bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States.

[Gur-Arye] Finally, Ambassador Basyuni had a message for Israelis on the eve of Passover, the holiday in which Jews celebrate coming out of Egypt.

[Basyuni] I would like to say: Happy Passover to all the Jewish people. I hope that next year we will celebrate this occasion and there will be a comprehensive peace in our area. [end recording]

Egypt's Musa Urges Hastening Deportees' Return

TA0404105293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] In an interview with our London correspondent Jerry Lewis, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has forecast that all the Arab parties, including the Palestinians, will attend the next round of Middle East peace talks due to open in Washington on 20 April.

[Begin recording] [Lewis] 'Amr Musa said that the climate for a speedy solution to the Arab-Israel dispute has without doubt been poisoned or adversely affected by the question of the deportations. However compounding the absence of progress was the absence on Israel's part of what he termed, viable offers. These he defined as proposals dealing with the

territorial aspect of the dispute and the rights of Palestinians, and ensuring that the security requirements of both Israel and the Arabs were addressed.

Following last week's talks between the leaders of the Palestinian delegation and United States Administration, and the Egyptian talks with the PLO, he was optimistic that all parties would attend the next round of talks in Washington.

[Musa] Talks that took place between the American State Department and (representatives) of the Palestinian delegation last week have also produced a better atmosphere. All this will be discussed in Tunis by the Palestinian leadership and we have reason to believe and also have the hope that this will lead to that.

[Lewis] On the question of the deportees, 'Amr Musa said it was best if the issue were solved quickly in order to encourage the Palestinians to have confidence to attend the talks. And he added the time scale envisaged by the Israelis to resolve the issue was too long.

[Musa] So the best thing is for some more to be allowed and to continue this inflow of deportees into the territories, back to their homes and jobs, and to agree that this end of the year is a long period anyway. It has to be shortened. They have to come back somewhat earlier.

[Lewis] Also, about the current wave of terrorism in Israel and the territories, he said the sooner confidence building measures on both sides are introduced, the better. He called on Israel to take, what he called, more positive steps to win over the population. He said the majority in the territories support the peace process, but they needed results in order so that the relations between Israel and the Palestinians improve. [end recording]

Rabinovich on al-Asad Statements, Peace Talks

TA0504065993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador in Washington and head of the Israeli delegation to talks with Syria, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] Professor Rabinovich, Egyptian President Mubarak has told TIME magazine that Syrian President al-Asad told him he is committed to total peace with Israel in exchange for total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Is there anything new in this Syrian stance?

[Rabinovich] I do not want to speculate about second-hand information. This is what President al-Asad told President Mubarak, and then related by Mubarak to TIME.

[Friedman] It was also translated from Arabic to English, and then to Hebrew.

[Rabinovich] Precisely. Now the purpose of direct talks is to be able to convey things directly. I hope we will start the negotiations on 20 April. At that time the Syrian delegation

will have every opportunity to present their position, and if it includes a new nuance or new formulations we will undoubtedly notice this.

[Dan] The question is whether this constitutes a step in the direction toward the Syrian answer we have been waiting regarding the essence of peace?

[Rabinovich] Perhaps. I must say, however, that we have been closely following statements from Damascus recently—including a speech delivered by President al-Asad himself to Syrian clerics. In this speech there was no indication for such a change. We have clarified to the Syrians several times, both during the talks and also during the drawn-out periods between the talks, that we are not interested only in the content and formulations coming out of the negotiations, but that for us, it is important that the Syrian display public diplomacy. We want them to say what they have to say publicly, by their leadership, so that the Israeli and the Syrian publics—as well as the Arab world—hear the Syrian leadership speak up clearly. So far this has not happened. We will have to closely examine the remarks attributed to President al-Asad by Mubarak.

[Friedman] Even prior to such an examination, however, does not the use of the expression total peace with Israel constitute a significant change, whether coming from al-Asad or any of his emissaries with whom you are negotiating?

[Rabinovich] Last autumn, when Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' came to the General Assembly, he used the expression total peace in exchange for total withdrawal. The expression total withdrawal, however, referred not only to withdrawal from the Golan Heights, but to total Israeli withdrawal from all the lands claimed by the Arabs. We did not accept al-Shar's formulation, and now we have to check whether this latest statement is similar to the foreign minister's expression, or whether there is something new here.

[Dan] If Syria is referring to total peace in exchange for total withdrawal from the Golan Heights, what will Israel's answer be?

[Rabinovich] Israel's answer is that it will not settle for an expression such as total peace, because we want to receive a very detailed answer as to what this total peace is made up of. We want to hear about diplomatic relations, open borders, trade relations, aviation ties, all the elements which were spelled out in detail in the peace agreement with Egypt. The expression total peace by itself, unfortunately does not answer our questions and expectations.

[Friedman] The negotiations will resume in Washington on 20 April. Do we already know whether all partners, including the Palestinians, will come to the negotiating table?

[Rabinovich] No, we still do not know for sure. The Palestinians have still not given the Americans a final and binding answer. At this stage we can only present assessments, because there are no clear answers.

[Friedman] Are you encouraged by the leadership evinced by President Mubarak in the peace talks, despite the fact

that he is not directly involved in the negotiations? Do you think this can expedite a breakthrough in the negotiations?

[Rabinovich] We are dividing this leadership, as you call it, into two parts: Intrinsically the phenomenon of an Arab state which has made peace with Israel, is active in the political arena and is talking both with Israel and the Arab sides, is positive. We would not like to see the package concluded between the United States and the Palestinians on the one hand, and between the United States and ourselves on the other—according to which the Palestinians are supposed to return to the talks—reopened. We hope that this Egyptian activity does not strive to bring about a reopening of this package.

Russia Asks Israeli Inclusion in Nuclear Project

TA0204164593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Russia wants Israel to contribute know-how and investments to a large international project to develop nuclear power for peaceful purposes based on new technology. Israel's ambassador in Moscow Hayim Bar-Lev told Israeli correspondents touring the CIS at the invitation of the Jewish Agency.

The ambassador said it is an initiative sponsored by Russia, the United States, France, and Japan. He said that each country can co-opt other partners, and Russia has asked to bring in Israel. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff on IDF in Territories

TA0404153993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Interview with Chief of Staff Ehud Barak by military correspondent Netan'el Semrik, on a tour of the Gaza Strip on 4 April—recorded]

[Text] [Barak] The increased activity of our forces in the territories is forcing the fugitives to change their mode of operation. This is enabling us to expose their weak points and take advantage of their mistakes to apprehend more suspects. We will pursue the special operations of all our forces for as long as it is required. On the other hand, we will continue to use our special units and the Shin Bet for the foreseeable future.

[Semrik] Lieutenant General Barak, can you tell whether the IDF's special deployment in the territories is bearing fruit?

[Barak] First, it is contributing by separating the Palestinian workers and the Israeli employers, both in the territories and inside Israel. Since we have put an end to the work of Palestinians in Israel, the IDF is helping by sending approximately 1,500 soldiers to work inside Israel, as well as several hundred soldiers in the Qatif Bloc.

[Semrik] Chief of Staff Barak, how long will the closure in the territories continue? Local inhabitants claim that the situation is extremely difficult and that they are running out of reserves.

[Baraq] I do not think there is any reason for us to divulge our plans to the enemy by informing them when the closure will end. It will continue for as long as required by the general situation and circumstances. This refers both to the security aspects relating to the Army's operations in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and to the overall picture, which is under the consideration of the Israeli Government.

[Semrik] Lt. Gen. Baraq, do you believe that the policy of stepped up military operations in the territories constitutes a genuine solution to the wave of terrorism and to the problems in the territories?

[Baraq] If by genuine solution you mean an acceleration of detention operations in the territories, then this policy of beefing up our forces does have an important contribution. Naturally, we harbor no illusions—nor do we want to instill such illusions among the public—that this will result in a total and irrevocable eradication of terrorism. We had better refrain from harboring such illusions, and realize that we are in the midst of a long-term struggle, and that we must do everything possible to bring about security.

Efforts To Supply Workers Inside Green Line

1,500 Troops Allotted To Help Farmers

TA0104180193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Responding to a request from the Agriculture Ministry, the chief of staff has consented to assign 1,500 male and female soldiers to farming jobs inside the Green Line. Tomorrow, 300 soldiers will start working in Aviv, at the 'Emeq Hefer flower packing plant. Others will be assigned farming jobs next week.

Our correspondent Ya'qov Balsenboim notes that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has until now objected to soldiers' working for farmers inside the Green Line.

West Bank Women Get Special Work Permits

TA0204045593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Some 1,000 female workers from Samaria have received special work permits from the Civil Administration and will come to work in the Tel Mond settlements in the Sharon region this morning. Our correspondent Yafa Glick reports that the prime minister authorized this at the special request of the agriculture minister, after flower growers said they could not handle the situation on their own. Sharon region police were directed to allow female workers bearing the permits to enter the Tel Mond bloc settlements.

Our correspondent Ya'qov Balsenboim reports that the flower growers association appealed to the Defense Ministry through the Agriculture Ministry's emergency headquarters, requesting to employ reliable workers, especially female workers from the territories, during the closure. [passage omitted]

Laborers From Territories Allowed To Work

TA0404064393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] Some 1,200 laborers from the territories this morning came to work on farms inside the Green Line. This was approved by the coordinator of government's activities in the territories. A spokesman for the Employment Services told our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon that Israeli farmers presented a list of the laborers they needed. All the laborers were inspected before leaving for work. More than 700 laborers from the territories who were allowed to leave for work are men and the rest are women. They will be paid minimum wage.

Cabinet Adopts Measures on Reducing Arab Employment

TA0404130793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The cabinet today decided to set up a special committee, headed by Minister Ora Namir, which will present, by next week, suggestions to radically reduce the number of Palestinians working in Israel. The closure has also been continued until further notice. The cabinet also decided to ban by decree employing workers from the territories, especially in the services sector. Arab-owned, private vehicles from the territories are banned from crossing the Green Line into Israel. In addition the cabinet decided to reduce the number of entrances into Israel.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Yosi Sarid proposed increasing the scope of investments in the territories and paying unemployment wages to Arab workers. Minister 'Uzi Bar'am said the government is faced with ongoing incitement from the right-wing, and that Likud's Netanyahu and Hanegbi are trying to inject an atmosphere of despair into the public. Minister Bar'am believes that most of the public realizes the need for a separation between Israel and the territories and that a political solution, namely, dividing up Greater Israel is needed.

Ministers Put Forth Measures To Separate Populations

TA0404181393

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 4 April carries a report on today's cabinet session by political correspondent Shlomo Raz. The report includes recorded remarks by Health Minister Hayim Ramon and Environment Minister Yosi Sarid warning against any return to the situation that existed prior to the imposition of the open-ended closure on the territories. Health Minister Hayim Ramon states that the "goal is to eventually bring about a situation in which no workers from the territories come here." He adds: "That is the goal which should be implemented. Various steps are being taken with that end in mind. These steps should be implemented on both sides of the Green Line."

Environment Minister Yosi Sarid comments: "We must achieve an immediate reduction in the number of workers

from the territories, halving their number in the initial stage. We should unfreeze all the infrastructure and development plans in the territories and put them into immediate operation. The scope of Israeli and international investments in the territories should be massively increased. We should pay unemployment benefits to workers from the territories who are left without jobs. The number of entrances to Israel should be significantly reduced, and they should be monitored far more closely. Perhaps there should be a ban on the entry of private vehicles from the territories into Israel with public transport serving as the sole means of transportation and perhaps the government should issue a decree prohibiting the employment of workers from the territories in most fields of work in Israel, and especially in the service sector."

A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 4 April notes that "Labor and Social Welfare Minister Ora Namir this evening decided that the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry would launch a campaign to impose the labor laws on Israeli employers once the closure on the territories was lifted. With the agreement of Major General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, it was decided that the following three laws would be strictly enforced. Workers from the territories would only be employed with the approval of the Employment Services, and the Minimum Wage and Hours of Work and Rest Laws would be enforced." The report adds that "Major General Rothschild noted that the Civil Administration would have no trouble issuing appropriate papers to every worker and employer."

Diplomatic Sources Note Arrangement on Return of Deportees

TA0404091593 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Apr 93 p 1

[Report from Toronto by Shmu'el Segev]

[Excerpt] Reliable diplomatic sources in Canada who followed Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit argue that an arrangement is emerging in the wake of negotiations between the United States and Israel and Egypt and the Palestinians. According to the arrangement, if the Palestinians return to the peace talks in Washington on 20 April the deportees will be allowed to return in three groups: one group would be allowed to go back immediately after the Palestinians announce their return to the talks, and a second group would be allowed to return during the talks. According to the sources, differences persist about the third group.

The Palestinians had initially demanded that all the deportees be allowed to return by the end of June, but they now agree to the end of August. Israel, and less fervently so the United States, insists that the last deportee return at the end of the year, as had been agreed by Rabin and Christopher.

The United States is trying to put the arrangement together before the arrival of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Washington on 6 April to prevent the visit from being "wasted" on the issue of the deportees, seeing that this could tarnish the pleasant atmosphere the administration wants to instill during the visit.

In addition to the timetable, disagreements remain over a public declaration about additional deportations in the future. The Palestinians had initially insisted on a public Israeli commitment not to carry out any additional deportations in the future. It seems they are now prepared to accept Peres' formula whereby "deportation is not a basis of Israel's policy and the deportation of 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists was an extraordinary move."

Nevertheless, the Palestinians are still trying to persuade the United States to secure a public commitment from Israel not to carry out additional deportations "for the duration of the negotiations." The Palestinians worked out this formula in conjunction with Egypt. It is based on the precedent set by Prime Minister Menahem Begin's commitment to President Jimmy Carter after the Camp David talks that "no more settlements will be established for three months." [passage omitted]

[A report by Smadar Peri, 'Amos Regev, and Shim'on Schiffer on page 13 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 4 April notes that a lengthy phone conversation between Rabin and Christopher was held over the weekend and dealt mostly with the situation in the territories. During the conversation "Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that Israel would not make any gestures whatsoever toward the Palestinians in the territories to encourage them to return to the negotiations in Washington" and reiterated "his categorical opposition to declare that he will abstain from resorting to deportations in the future."]

Meretz Factions Endorse Gaza Strip 'Evacuation' Plan

TA0204142593

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 2 April carries an unattributed report on page 3, stating that "in its weekly session, the MAPAM [United Workers Party, a component of Meretz] Secretariat endorsed, by a majority of votes, a proposal drafted by Immigrant Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban and submitted by MAPAM's Political Committee for Peace and Security. The proposal concerns a Gaza Strip evacuation as part of the peace process and will be used as foundation for the Meretz position at the Knesset and in the government.

"The resolution states, among other things, that 'Meretz regards arrangements for the Gaza evacuation and the West Bank autonomy as an integral part of a comprehensive peace process. The arrangements are a stage toward a permanent settlement of the Palestinian issue either through an independent Palestinian state or as part of a federation or confederation with Jordan, in compliance with the principles of the Meretz platform.'"

Under the resolution, "Israel will be ready to contribute its share during the interim period by funneling all the taxes levied from Gaza residents toward developing an economic infrastructure in the Strip. In addition, Israel will assist in

finding solutions to the problem of Gaza residents' employment during the interim period, while meticulously observing adherence to state law.

"Israel will make a joint effort with the PLO leadership and international elements toward planning the self-rule and the joint industrial development."

Writing on the same page, Yehuda Tzur reports: "The CRM [Citizens Rights Movement, a Meretz component] Council, which convened in Tel Aviv last night, endorsed the Meretz proposal concerning Gaza-first withdrawal." Tzur adds that "under the Meretz 'Gaza-first' plan, Israel will withdraw from Gaza and hand it over to the Palestinian rule, subject to Israel's security needs and with the backing of the international community. The proposal states that the step does not mean a desertion of Gaza, but rather its transfer to authorized Palestinian elements who will take care of internal security."

Government Urged To Consider Dialogue With Hamas

TA0404123393 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
4 Apr 93 p 9

[Commentary by Avner Regev: "A New Course of Political Thinking"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has been trying, occasionally with success, to lead the struggle against the "Zionists" and strip the PLO of its supremacy. The big difference between the two is that the PLO is prepared to conduct political negotiations with Israel, while Hamas is opposed to any dialogue whatsoever. Hamas has an impact on the Islamic Movement in Israel, while its own activities are affected by other Islamic movements throughout the Arab world. Consequently, Hamas has stepped up its murderous activities which instill terror and fear, both of Hamas and of the Israeli Army, in the Palestinian population. This state of affairs calls for a new political thinking on the part of policymakers in Jerusalem.

It is worth examining the possibility of changing our policy and checking under what circumstances we could establish some kind of contact with Hamas in order to curb the wave of murders. Failure to stop these murders might result in a situation bordering on an all-out war and bring our security to the lowest point we have experienced since the Lebanon war.

For years, contacts with the PLO or its supporters inside and outside the territories were absolute taboo. Calls for a dialogue with nationalist elements within Palestinian society before these are swept away by Islamic fundamentalism were categorically rejected and dismissed by government circles. Now that fundamentalism is on the rise and its supporters perpetrate murders, the natural tendency is to fight it because "there is nobody and nothing to talk about," the same trite argument used in the not too distant past.

However, there are other alternatives if we stray from orthodox thinking. One would be to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the leader of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, in exchange for a commitment signed by him to stop the terror and the

murders. Another would be to approach the leaders of the Islamic Movement in Israel and use their services as a lever for a dialogue with Hamas so as to make it understand that the murderous terror they resort to will only increase their suffering and will not bring the Palestinians any satisfactory solution. This could lead us to an as yet uncharted course on the way to reaching the objective set by the Rabin government when it assumed office: attaining maximum security in the context of peace accords or in some other framework.

Many will dislike the idea of looking for ways to enter a dialogue with Hamas, and rightly so. However, the political level should take action compatible with its supreme objective, which is providing maximum security to every citizen and to the entire country.

The main enemy today is Hamas. Therefore, a decision to fight it should be coupled with an attempt to make progress in the political process with the nationalist elements. Fighting everybody all the time will not cut down terror and will not enhance our security.

Twenty odd years ago our internal security was in a far worse state. Infiltrations of armed gangs, terrorist attacks, and murders were a daily fare, but nobody then questioned our mettle. Today, we seem to be afflicted with "fatigue" and to have a lower resistance threshold. Hence, the light at the end of the tunnel is contained in the political process, whether this means talks with the PLO or an attempted dialogue with Hamas.

Fatah Commander Arrested, Intifadah Incidents 4 Apr

TA0504063293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400
GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Security Forces say they have caught the head of a Fatah terrorist cell in Rafah. 'Abd-al-Shawi is said to have been responsible for a planned attack on an Army patrol. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says 'Abd-al-Shawi was trained in Arab countries and on his return to Rafah he enlisted a terrorist Mahmud al-Kurd. About six weeks ago the terrorist was arrested after soldiers found a roadside charge he had placed. Under interrogation he helped soldiers track down his commander.

Security forces last night sealed the home of Mahmud Abu-Sahur, a resident of Ayda refugee camp near Bethlehem. Abu-Sahur is suspected of being an accomplice in the killing of General Security Service agent Hayim Nahmani in Jerusalem three months ago.

In Hebron a firebomb was thrown at an Israeli car last night. It exploded on the car, but caused no injuries. The driver opened fire in response. Security forces later closed the area and searched for the assailant.

An Israeli woman from Qiryat Arba' was injured in the neck and head last night when her car was stoned close to Halhul. After receiving treatment on the spot she was taken to hospital.

Palestinian Security Prisoner Dies in Police Custody

TA0304043093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] A Palestinian security prisoner detained two weeks ago died last night at a hospital in Ashqelon of what doctors described as an injury to the man's lungs. Twenty-three-year-old 'Amid Sa'id Hasan of the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was hospitalized three days after he was detained. Security sources say he was one of the leaders of the militant Fatah Hawks group linked with the mainstream of the PLO. Police are investigating the circumstances surrounding his death.

IDF Kills Policeman, Injures 2 Soldiers in West Bank

TA0304044993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Staff Sergeant Eytan Mesika, a policeman in the Samaria District, was killed and two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were injured, one seriously and one moderately, when IDF soldiers mistakenly opened fire at their car.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that an initial debriefing reveals that the policeman and the soldiers were driving in a car bearing Israeli license plates from the settlement of Ma'ale Efrayim to the center of Israel and ran an IDF roadblock near the village of Awsarin in the Nabulus District.

The soldiers at the roadblock immediately reported to an IDF patrol driving near the Tapuah junction. The patrol set up another roadblock to stop the runaway car. When the car came in sight, the soldiers signaled it to halt, but despite the calls and signs the vehicle ran this roadblock, too.

In keeping with procedures concerning the arrest of suspects, the soldiers on the scene fired in the air, then at the tires, and finally at the car itself. Staff Sergeant Eytan Mesika was killed and two other soldiers in the car, a male and a female, were injured and evacuated by helicopter for medical treatment. Another soldier who was in the car was not injured.

The IDF and a special police team are investigating the incident. [passage omitted with account of local IDF officer]

Skirmish in West Bank, 2 IDF Soldiers Wounded

TA0304181393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] In the village of Tarqumiyah near Hebron, two Israeli soldiers were wounded last night when building blocks and stones were thrown at them. Qol Yisra'el's military correspondent said the incident took place when an Israeli Army force was conducting a search in the village. The reporter adds that the soldiers came upon several masked men who called on the villagers to demonstrate. The soldiers succeeded in capturing two of the masked men but mayhem ensued and they managed to get away. The villagers began hurling building blocks and stones at the soldiers; two of them were lightly wounded. Later reports indicate one of the masked men was taken to a Hebron hospital to be treated

for injuries. He is said to be a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist who was released two weeks ago from prison.

In another incident in the territories today, a resident of Ramallah was wounded as a Border Policeman opened fire at the man, who was throwing stones. The soldiers called on him to halt and when he did not do so, they opened fire, lightly wounding him.

Dismissal of Shin Bet Chief Sought

TA0204191493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Studio discussion between anchorman Ya'aqov Ahime'ir and political correspondent Gadi Sukenik—live]

[Excerpts] [Ahime'ir] A detailed report with findings against the Shin Bet chief—mainly suspicions of inappropriate public conduct and norms of behavior and credibility unbecoming a senior official—has been placed on the prime minister's desk. The report was prepared over two years ago and was presented to former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Its contents have also been brought to the attention of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The Shin Bet chief is currently completing five years in the job and is about to start the sixth. Our political correspondent Gad Sukenik, who investigated the subject, reports that high-level jurists in Israel recommended to former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to transfer the Shin Bet boss from his post, but Shamir, under the veil of secrecy, did nothing. Yitzhaq Rabin, like his predecessor, has avoided ending the Shin Bet boss' term.

[Sukenik] First, background information. The Shin Bet boss, whose identity must be kept secret, was appointed to the post exactly five years ago. Even on the eve of his appointment, various reports were sent to the office of the prime minister, who is his direct superior, casting doubts on the man's suitability due to his character. Nevertheless, the appointment went through. Still, reports, mainly originating within the Shin Bet itself and dealing with his norms of behavior, continued to build up. In 1991, during the man's third year in office, then Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had no choice but to investigate the issue. [passage omitted] The investigation was handed to Reserve General Refa'el Vardi, known for his experience and integrity. Vardi investigated the information, mainly among Shin Bet top echelons, while endeavoring to prevent shock waves in the organization. The findings were presented to Prime Minister Shamir in private in May 1991, and they confirmed a great deal of the complaints. Only a small group of people were brought into what is still classified Top Secret. These people believe the suspicions of unbecoming conduct, squandering public funds, inappropriate public behavior, exaggerated and perhaps even dangerous exposure due to the Shin Bet chief's social ties were justified. The report does not refer to any professional blemish, although some of the cases touched on security work. Vardi did not investigate and therefore did not refer to criminal aspects. Among all those involved either directly or indirectly there was no hesitation: all recommended to the prime minister and the

justice minister: that the Shin Bet chief must be removed from his post immediately or that a date be fixed soon for his quiet resignation. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Shamir, under the veil of total secrecy, did nothing. He decided from time to time on dates for replacing the Shin Bet chief, and then postponed them. After the elections he handed the affair over to Yitzhaq Rabin and reported to him on the issue. According to the information I have, Rabin has kept the Pandora box shut. [passage omitted]

[Ahime'ir] You are disclosing this affair during a wave of terrorism. Is there any hint of inept performance by the Shin Bet in fighting terrorism?

[Sukenik] God forbid. We must make it absolutely clear that no doubt has been cast about the Shin Bet's power and excellent professional performance and the professionalism of the man who heads it. [passage omitted]

[Ahime'ir] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who refused to comment on the issue this morning, says that the main task of the Shin Bet is to fight terrorism. Mr. Rabin's adviser Gad Ben-Ari made the following remarks to our correspondent Gadi Sukenik in the prime minister's name: The Shin Bet and the person heading it are the spearhead in this struggle, and Rabin has complete trust in them due to their achievements. The prime minister still has no intention of discussing the details raised by our political correspondent in this affair.

Attorneys Deny Recommendation

TA0404075193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
4 Apr 93 pp A1, A6

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Excerpt] Attorney General Yosef Harish and State Attorney Dorit Beinisch last night denied that they had recommended or demanded the dismissal or transfer of the head of the Shin Bet in the wake of the Vardi Commission report. In an extraordinary move, the two issued a joint communique after Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin asked for their comments to last Friday's Israel Television report.

The report inferred that senior jurists, including Harish and Beinisch, had demanded the dismissal of the head of the Shin Bet. However, the joint communique notes that the legal opinion submitted at the time to then-Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not include any recommendation to take any steps whatsoever, including legal ones, against the head of the Shin Bet. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Upholds Shin Bet Chief

TA0404114093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100
GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] In its weekly session today, the cabinet announced it is standing by the side of the head of the Shin Bet and leveled harsh criticism at the television item of 2 April. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that this is an old story, and broadcasting it was an irresponsible act which harms the war on terrorism. Interior Minister Arye Der'i told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that this broadcast was a vile act bordering on crime. Minister Der'i called on the education and culture minister to exercise its prerogative and appoint a team to investigate all the elements involved in preparing and broadcasting the report. They should be suspended immediately and until the inspection ends, Der'i said.

Likud faction chairman Moshe Qatzav has rejected hints that opposition members are behind the publication of the story about the Shin Bet head. Our correspondent Ilan Lazarovich reports that Qatzav called the Shin Bet head, expressed his confidence in and support for him, and denied the slanderous publications made at this difficult time for the state's security.

The cabinet also discussed the closure on the territories, and decided that it will be upheld until further notice. The cabinet also discussed the distress of farmers and builders due to the lack of hands from the territories. Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said that it is a scandal because there are 150,000 unemployed Israelis, but it is impossible to find among them 1,000 who would work in the hothouses in Tel Mond.

Ministry Launches Golan Town Population Campaign

TA0504113093 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
5 Apr 93 p 2

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] A population campaign on the Golan Heights will start tomorrow. During it, 250 3-room apartments will be put out on sale in the town of Qatzrin, priced at 120,000 to 130,000 shekels [about \$40,000]. Buyers who do not yet own an apartment will be eligible for a 60,000-shekels grant.

The campaign is organized by the Construction and Housing Ministry. Golan residents have attributed political significance to the campaign.

Arab 'Resentment' of Christopher's Remarks Viewed

JN0404092193 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
4 Apr 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's testimony before Congress has evoked a wave of resentment and big questions in Arab circles, in general, and in the Arab cordon states and among Palestinian circles, in particular.

Christopher's announcement regarding the U.S. bias and the unlimited U.S. political and economic support for Israel has revealed the true U.S. role, which is biased toward Israel, in the peace process, especially since Christopher stressed the need to end the Arab boycott of Israel.

Christopher's testimony coincided with the Israeli campaign of escalating violence and terrorism in the occupied territories. This has raised big questions about Washington's credibility and its seriousness in achieving a lasting, comprehensive, and just peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially since the Clinton administration had encouraged Rabin's government to disavow Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for repatriating the deportees.

The U.S. Administration's insistence on resuming the negotiations without resolving the deportee issue and without curbing Israeli terrorism against the Arab citizens in the occupied territories has evoked the concern of the Palestinian and Arab circles participating in the peace process, which prompted Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, to admit that the majority of Palestinian people reject the resumption of negotiations on 20 April before returning the deportees to their homeland.

Moreover, Faysal al-Husayni's trip to Washington and his talks with the U.S. Administration achieved no progress, except for listening to additional, nonbinding U.S. promises.

What is even worse is that the U.S. Administration made no reference at all to the policy of fascist terrorism Israel is pursuing in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after it sealed them off and besieged their Arab inhabitants.

Given all this, the Palestinians and Arabs should reconsider their calculations and stands on the continuation of negotiations. They should, in particular, reevaluate the U.S. stand and role in the peace process. This is so because the intifadah's escalation and growth and the diversified means of confrontation it is using are in favor of the Palestinian and Arab stand if they are properly utilized.

When the Palestinians and Arabs take a serious and firm stand on the deportee issue and on the resumption of negotiations, Christopher's testimony, which is biased toward Israel, cannot serve the U.S. role in the peace process.

Christopher Remarks 'Very Hostile'

JN0404085493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
4 Apr 93 pp 1, 20

[Editorial]

[Text] Warren Christopher's remarks to Congress on the Middle East last week have recalled the ugly face of U.S. policies. In the past, these policies were characterized by flagrant bias toward Israel and extreme disregard of all Arab and Islamic reactions these biased policies might have drawn.

The U.S. secretary of state not only confirmed the previous U.S. pledge to maintain an annual \$3 billion in U.S. aid to Israel and his pledge regarding the financial guarantees, estimated at \$11 billion, designed to settle Jewish immigrants coming from the former Soviet Union but also launched a campaign against the Arab boycott of Israel, urging the Arabs, particularly the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula states, to end this boycott immediately.

Perhaps the most astonishing thing for us in the U.S. secretary's statements is the excessive U.S. inclination to take advantage of the Gulf war and depict the Washington-led aggression against Iraq as a favor which should not be disavowed by the Arabs, particularly those Arab states that Christopher claimed would have become mere Iraqi governorates if U.S. generosity and magnanimity had not taken immediate action and prevented this Western-alleged eventuality.

Hence, by making these statements, which are very hostile to everything that is Arab, the U.S. Administration has recalled its image as an ally of Israel. As part of such an alliance, this administration may go far in its hostility to the Arabs and Palestinians, especially since Warren Christopher spoke to the Congress in an Israeli tone. He even uttered the same words used by the Israeli Government with regard to the Palestinians and the PLO.

Without pondering much the elements of the U.S. Middle East policy, it can be said that this policy is based on a permanent alliance with Israel and on hostility to the Arabs, including the Palestinians, Libyans, and Iraqis, not to mention that this policy has disavowed its Arab allies in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula, whose financial resources Christopher openly urged placing in the hands of the West to support Russian reforms.

When listening to all these U.S. statements, which are extremely biased toward Israel and which persist in hostility toward the Arabs, we instantly recall the extent of the political hypocrisy adopted by most U.S. Administrations whenever they talked about peace as well as the full partner role, bilateral negotiations, international legitimacy, human rights, and democracy. This prompts us to express caution in advance toward all that may happen in Washington or elsewhere with regard to the peace process, a process in which the United States is playing the roles of mediator, judge, and public prosecutor.

'Growing U.S. Support for Israel'

JN0304164793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Within the framework of continued coordination and consultations between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir met in his office this morning with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the steering committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in the presence of al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

The conferees discussed the difficulties and obstacles facing the peace process and ways to confront and remove them. They also reviewed the outcome of talks that the Palestinian delegation, led by al-Husayni, held with the U.S. Administration during the delegation's recent visit to Washington.

In a statement to our correspondent after the meeting, Qaddumi said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent statements before the U.S. Congress, which confirm the growing U.S. support for Israel, will negatively affect the peace process and will increase the obstacles facing it, at a time when we want a fair sponsor, which has a sense of responsibility and which can win the confidence of all parties, and not only one party, to put this process on the right path.

Columnist on Christopher Testimony

JN0404101093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Apr 93 p 2

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "Thank You, Christopher"]

[Text] Because I am a person given to clarity, unambiguity, frankness, and opposed to procrastination and prevarication, I cannot but extend my deep thanks and gratitude to U.S. Secretary of State Mr. Christopher for making a frank and clear testimony before Congress on the U.S. Middle East policy and U.S.-Israeli ties.

Christopher admitted that the U.S. aid to Israel under the current U.S. Administration will exceed the aid it received from all previous administrations.

Christopher also said: "The Arab boycott of Israel must be ended. Washington will make the necessary efforts in this regard and put sufficient pressure on the Arabs to achieve this objective." It is worth noting that Christopher launched an explicit and audacious campaign against Gulf rulers, particularly Kuwaiti and Saudi rulers, describing them as ungrateful to the United States. In other words, he gave an accurate description of their traits and conduct; a description that was not out of place.

Christopher used warnings or threatening terms to characterize these rulers, saying that they must place their oil revenues at the disposal of the United States so that it may honor its pledges and commitments to friendly nations, such as Russia and Israel.

Consequently, U.S. ambitions regarding Gulf oil and its revenues, rather than concern for international law, love for the al-Sabah family, or concern for safeguarding its "democratic and fair government" in Kuwait were the driving force behind the tyrannical 30-state aggression against fraternal Iraq.

Christopher promised Congress to work to end the Arab boycott of Israel as soon as possible. He also promised to put pressure on the Gulf rulers to make them completely end their boycott of Israel and open Gulf markets to Israeli exports.

The United States was not the first party in the world to characterize Gulf rulers in general, and Kuwaiti rulers in particular, as ungrateful and unthankful.

Egypt, as well as Britain and France, also found them to be ungrateful and unthankful.

As for Iraq, it came to grips with the truth regarding Kuwaiti rulers before anybody else did. For, it waged an eight-year war with Iran, which covets Gulf territory and oil, only to be rewarded by Kuwaiti and other Gulf rulers with conspiracies and with an attempt to deplete its resources, destroy its national economy, and usurp part of its territory and oil resources.

His Majesty King Husayne made strenuous efforts to avert the devastating war promoted by the United States and its allies to control the Gulf oil resources. The king endeavored to resolve the Kuwaiti-Iraqi crisis within an Arab context, away from covetous foreign interventions. He almost succeeded in his sincere and honorable endeavor. However, Gulf rulers rewarded Jordan by imposing sanctions and an economic embargo on it.

The Kuwaiti rulers believed they could buy the Americans and obtain their satisfaction with the huge amounts of money they offered them. They were not aware that the Americans covet all the money in the Kuwaiti rulers' possession, all Kuwaiti and other Gulf oil, as well as all its revenues, and not only part or half of these revenues.

The Kuwaiti rulers have been unappreciative of their Arabism and Islam. They have placed themselves in the lap of the insatiable U.S. bogey, and between the sharp jaws of this bogey. What a terrible thing they have done!

Once again, I extend thanks to Mr. Christopher for unmistakably and clearly baring the facts regarding U.S. support for Israel, and for properly characterizing Kuwaiti rulers with suitable epithets. He also acknowledged U.S. ambitions regarding Gulf oil and its revenues, whether the Gulf rulers like it or not.

Given all this, will the Arab rulers pause at Christopher's testimony and his clear and frank statements so that they may know the path they are treading.

Pledge Party Condemns Testimony

JN0404105493 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic
4 Apr 93 p 25

[Text] Amman—The Pledge [al-'ahd] Party has issued a statement on the recent statements made by the U.S. Secretary of State, saying: The recent testimony made by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher before Congress shows how far the new U.S. Administration has gone in its unjustifiable enmity toward Arabs and Muslims. Besides, this testimony reflects a hostile stand toward the Palestine question.

While noting the firm statements and threats made against Iraq by the Americans from time to time to prevent it from effecting a resurgence that could improve the lot of the Arab individual and the demands they are making that Iraq honor the arbitrary Security Council resolutions, we cannot fail to observe the silence maintained over the crimes Jews are committing against defenseless Palestinian civilians and also over the illegal deportation of Palestinians. By the same token, we cannot fail to notice the pressures being applied on the Arabs to make them place their resources at the disposal of the West so that it may aid economic and political reforms in Russia.

While noting this unethical conduct on the part of the U.S. Administration and the suspicious silence over the issue maintained by Arab states, we hope that the Arab peoples will awaken to the dangers of the conspiracy being concocted by President Clinton's administration and its allies with a view to seizing their financial and oil resources so that this administration and its allies may finance the settlement of Jews in Arab and Muslim Palestine and aid the Russian president and entrench his status as a docile tool in the hands of the West.

Given that we view Zionism and its allies as our real enemies, we urge the Arab peoples and governments to close ranks so that they may halt this disregard. Likewise, we demand an end to inter-Arab differences, and hope that the Arab leaders would meet to save the nation from the tragic state of affairs it is experiencing.

Authorities Welcome U.S. Lifting Travel Warning

JN0504062993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
5 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Amman—Jordanian officials Sunday welcomed the lifting of one-month-old U.S. warning to American nationals travelling to Jordan and said it has removed a cloud from the otherwise warming up American-Jordanian relations.

"It is welcome news and we are happy with it," said Mahmud al-Sharif, the Information Minister. "The retraction of the travel advisory puts things back on the track that they should be."

Peter Kovach, the U.S. Embassy spokesman, confirmed that the mission had early this month received "a one-line cable" from Washington notifying it that the advisory has been lifted.

He declined to elaborate.

The travel warning "was a mistake in the first place and we don't know how it was made," a government source said. "Now that they have lifted it, we are satisfied that the entire episode is behind us."

Officials and tour operators meanwhile, differed on the impact of the advisory.

Minister of Tourism Yanal Hikmat said the effect was minimal and there was no major cancellation of group tours, but travel agents said they suffered losses.

The American warning, issued on March 1, advised U.S. citizens to take precautions while traveling to and in Jordan, saying there could be a "heightened threat of terrorism."

A flurry of diplomatic contacts between Amman and Washington followed the warning, and the cancellation of the advisory was seen as the result of intense Jordanian lobbying against it.

Despite the cancellation of the advisory, a single theory as to why it was issued in the first place does not exist.

The Feb. 2 interception and arrest of two men at the al-Ramtha border post along with concealed weapons said to have been intended for an attack against Americans in Jordan was cited by the U.S. as the reason for the advisory.

But Jordanian officials were sceptical that such an incident alone could have prompted the warning, particularly that security authorities had established that the purported plot was aborted and had adopted unspecified measures to follow up the affair.

Furthermore, there was no precedent to any American being hurt while visiting or staying in Jordan, and as such the travel advisory was a harsh measure to take against a country with such a record.

While some officials viewed the U.S. decision as an unjustified overreaction, others saw in the move an American attempt to send a political message, whose significance could not be readily understood or fathomed.

One theory advanced at the time was that the advisory came as a "preemptive measure" against possible backlash in Jordan resulting from the arrest of Muhammad Salamah, a Jordanian of Palestinian origin who was detained on March 4 in connection with the Feb. 2 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York.

The arrest of Mr. Salamah came three days after the warning was issued.

"Apparently the U.S. authorities knew they were going to arrest a Jordanian in connection with the bombing, and they moved to avoid any repercussions against Americans in Jordans," according to one of the sources.

Another theory was that the advisory was a subtle form of American pressure on Jordan to accept the invitation to the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington on April 20.

American sources denied there were any ulterior motives to the advisory, maintaining that the State Department, mindful of the Dec. 22, 1988, Pan Am bombing affair in which the department was accused of "withholding advance warning," could not but issue the advisory.

In the Feb. incident at al-Ramtha, the two men detained were said to have confessed that they belonged to a group called Hizbollah-Palestine and were planning to use the weapons that they were found carrying against American tourists in Jordan around Feb. 20 when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was visiting the Kingdom.

Mr. Christopher was seeking to revive the stalled Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

"Obviously the group opposes the peace process and wanted to stage the attack at a time when the focus of international media would have been on Jordan with the visit of Mr. Christopher", said a Palestinian source.

British Embassy officials in Amman, meanwhile, dismissed reports that London had also issued a similar travel advisory to British nationals.

"No such warning was issued," said a British diplomat.

Mr. Hikmat, the tourism minister, Sunday welcomed the lifting of the American advisory, which he said was, "totally groundless since there was nothing in Jordan that posed any danger to anyone."

Asked whether tourism to Jordan suffered as a result of the warning and whether there were any long-term repercussions on the kingdom's second largest foreign exchange earner, Mr. Hikmat said:

"As far as we know there was no major impact, there was no major cancellation by tour groups, and I don't think there are any long-term effects."

The minister, speaking in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, conceded, however, that "a few tour operators might have suffered small losses."

But some travel agents said the impact was quite visible on European tourism to Jordan.

"Jordan does not normally have any large number of American tourists," said an official at a leading travel agency. "But there was a negative impact of the warning on European tourism to Jordan."

According to the tour operator, who preferred not to be named, the travel advisory came at a time when European travel agents were releasing their brochures and tour programmes for the season.

"As a result of the warning, Jordan was not included in the programmes of many agents in Europe, and this will take a few months to be rectified," the official told the Jordan Times.

Airlines said there were some cancellations of tour groups coming to Jordan, but, as one of them put it, not to the extent of resulting in any large losses.

Analyst: U.S. Unlikely To Change Iraq Policy

JN0304160793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
30 Mar 93 p 25

[News analysis by Mazin Hammad: "What Does Washington Want From Baghdad"]

[Text] A few days before his 20 January inauguration, U.S. President Bill Clinton told THE NEW YORK TIMES that if Iraqi President Saddam Husayn wants to establish "different" relations with the United States, all he has to do is prove this. At the time, the remark was considered a good initiative on the part of the new U.S. Administration. But it received a spurt of scathing criticism by influential U.S. circles, thus forcing Clinton to retract his statement.

Nevertheless, Clinton's statement reflected a "personal" desire to improve relations with Iraq, albeit under harsh terms. Clinton has sought since then to uphold the policy of former President Bush, but he did not tie lifting the economic embargo to Saddam Husayn's ouster—something that Bush had been seeking all the time. We all remember how Bush spent the last days of his presidency meeting with political, military, and intelligence officials to find a way to deal with the movements of Iraqi missiles near the southern "no-fly zone," instead of spending that period attending farewell parties, as U.S. presidents usually do.

It is clear that the personal factor played an important role in the course of the U.S.-Iraqi conflict right up until Bush's last gasp in office. Saddam Husayn thought of President Bush as a spiteful enemy directly responsible for the allied aggression against Iraq. Bush, on the other hand, tied the lifting of sanctions and normalization of Iraq relations to Saddam's ouster or his voluntary relinquishment of power.

Bill Clinton is now trying to break the shackles of Bush in connection with Iraq to draw up his own policy, especially since Bush lost his wager that the Iraqi president would be toppled by his own people.

This is at least the impression people got after reading THE WASHINGTON POST report last Sunday which expected the United States to issue an official statement that the United States no longer ties the lifting of sanctions to the Iraqi president's removal. Hours after the report in the THE WASHINGTON POST saw daylight—bearing in mind that the newspaper is in the know—the White House denied the report, asserting there is no change in U.S. policy toward Iraq. A few hours later, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher repeated the White House statement, adding that Washington has not dropped its linkage between the lifting of sanctions and the Iraqi president's removal.

The unavoidable question here is: Did the newspaper leak the report to give the new administration a chance to affirm that it would pursue Bush's policy, or is something else being prepared for a U.S.-Iraqi rapprochement, but the newspaper published it "prematurely"?

What attracts attention to Christopher's statement is the "hypothetical linkage" between Saddam and the sanctions. Christopher hinted that Washington is willing to lift the sanctions if the Iraqi president "complies" with all UN

resolutions. He added, however, that "it is impossible to imagine that Saddam Husayn would do that and remain in power".

Apparently, Washington has turned its back on all Iraqi overtures to turn over a new leaf based on mutual respect. Since Clinton's victory in the elections, Baghdad has spared no effort to confirm its goodwill toward the new administration.

Baghdad has responded to a good number of international resolutions, except for the "no-fly zones" in southern and northern Iraq, which violate Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty and are not decreed by UN resolutions. The United States seems resolved, however, to keep up the pressure. Yesterday, it charged that Iraq exported an oil shipment secretly to Iran, in violation of international resolutions.

The timing of this new accusation shows that the United States is not willing to improve its relations with Baghdad, at least for the time being.

King Inaugurates Arab Labor Conference

JN0504104993 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has asserted that an awakening on the part of the Arab individual can only be achieved by guaranteeing the individual's right to a decent living, self-expression, political participation, and the advocacy of justice. He added that this awakening requires preserving the Arab individual's right to free movement and work in his nation.

His majesty added: It is high time for us to declare frankly and explicitly that the Arab individual has suffered enough frustration, oppression, estrangement, and illiteracy. The Arab individual has also been absent long enough from participating in creating his own realities and future.

In a nationwide speech inaugurating the 20th session of the Arab labor ministers' conference today at the Palace of Culture, his majesty said: On this sacred Arab soil, we side with justice, defend freedom, and cling to Arab, Islamic Jerusalem, even if many swords do not champion it. He

emphasized Jordan's opposition to inter-Arab wars, saying that Jordan will seek to protect this nation from backsliding into pre-Islamic fanaticism.

His majesty urged everybody to abide by Arab labor agreements and recommendations, noting that Jordan has been an example in observing and implementing these agreements. He asserted, furthermore, that viable progress can exist only through joint Arab action and the international family.

Addressing the conferees, his majesty said: This meeting reflects the existence of a pan-Arab movement still searching for unified objectives and methods. He noted that representatives of all brotherly countries are taking part in the conference.

Referring to the Gulf crisis, his majesty said: Jordan was the Arab party that suffered most due to this crisis, after Iraq and Kuwait. Nevertheless, we carried out our national and pan-Arab duty before and after this war, with all honesty, honor, and sense of responsibility. Injustice was done to us twice: First, when our stand on that crisis was misunderstood; second, when we shouldered many consequences of the devastating aftereffects and results of this crisis. However, we overcame the ordeal with God's help and with the patience of our proud and generous people. We hope that our brothers will overcome the ordeals, divisions, and spoliation from which they are suffering at a time when the balance of power in the world is disturbed after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the promotion of a new world order—an order that is based on a one-sided vision and on the endeavors by its advocates to control this world.

His majesty expressed hope that the participants in this conference will return home carrying what they saw and learned about our pan-Arab, democratic experience. He stressed that what we have achieved and continue to achieve in this part of the Arab homeland will entitle [Jordan], along with its brothers, to be a starting point for comprehensive Arab progress in embodiment of the nation's historic objectives of freedom, independence, and unity—objectives for whose realization our grandfathers and fathers have struggled since they announced the Great Arab Revolt, reinvigorated its message, and drove from its land and dignity the forces of colonialism with its various faces, methods, and forms.

Fatah Official Injured in Assassination Attempt

NC0304165893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] As part of the liquidations among Palestinian factions, a Palestinian source has announced that Major Fathi Zaydan, Fatah official in charge of al-Miyah Wa Miyah camp in southern Lebanon, was the target of an assassination attempt this morning. He was injured when a bomb was thrown at his car in the camp. The source blamed the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group for the attack.

President Leaves for 24-Hour Visit to Saudi Arabia

NC0304103893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has left Beirut for Saudi Arabia on a 24-hour visit accompanied by Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul and Information Minister Michel Samahah.

Shortly before departing, al-Hirawi received Dallul and Samahah and reviewed final touches to the dossiers that will be discussed during the talks.

Minister Comments on Tour

NC0304094393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi will leave for Saudi Arabia on 3 April to meet with Saudi officials in a quest for political and financial backing for Lebanon. This visit comes in the wake of the favorable impression and positive results produced by his visits to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The officials there showed total responsiveness and willingness to support Lebanon's drive for national reconciliation and reconstruction.

Information Minister Michel Samahah, who accompanied President al-Hirawi to Kuwait and the UAE, said those visits were very fruitful and successful in securing the backing of our Arab brothers for our endeavor to liberate our occupied territories in line with UN resolutions, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Minister Samahah continued: The visits were intended to explain the achievements we have already made in rebuilding the country, and to brief the Arab brothers on our future plans. The restoration of Lebanese vitality is basic to the Arab world's rejuvenation.

Concerning Arab willingness to assist Lebanon's economic revival and reconstruction, Minister Samahah said: When we speak of Arab solidarity with a resurgent Lebanon for the sake of reconstruction, we mean that we want Arab participation in infrastructure projects via easy-term loans and grants. Therefore President al-Hirawi's visits were similar to the prime minister's earlier visits in the sense that we do not go around begging for aid. We go to brief Arab officials on our domestic conditions and the stage we have reached in our reconstruction and economic revival and the ways in which they can contribute to rebuilding this homeland, so dear to them, by establishing funds, helping with projects, and extending easy-term loans. Soon Lebanon and the

countries we are now visiting will exchange visits by technical and financial delegations. This will begin a process of Arab participation in the Lebanese Government's economic revival scheme.

Regarding al-Hirawi's upcoming visit to Saudi Arabia, Minister Samahah announced: When a country seeking aid acts seriously and confidently and knows how to submit its case, it will certainly get positive results. We will be honored by a meeting with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz in Saudi Arabia. I believe that things will look brighter after this.

Junblatt on Talks Coordination With Syria

NC0404103593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has noted that the U.S. Administration's failure to give the minimum rights to the Arabs, specifically the Syrians and Lebanese, will steer the talks into a deadlock. The deportees issue has not yet been resolved and none of the Israeli conditions has changed, Junblatt added.

Junblatt said that the Israelis do not recognize the Palestinians' rights and they want to normalize relations with Lebanon because they cannot confront Syria, a major power; therefore, they want to single out Lebanon. Thus any coordination with Syria and the Palestinians will be in our favor.

In an interview with al-Mustaqbal Television aired last night, Junblatt said there are gaps in the government's performance, adding that administrative reforms should be expedited. [passage omitted]

Concerning the displaced, Junblatt said that their return will mean the end of war and the return of coexistence among all sects and parties in the various Lebanese areas. He said this task is not easy, because we are healing a 17-year-old wound.

He said that there is cooperation and coordination with the patriarch, adding: I have not ruled out talking with anyone, and I am quite prepared to cooperate with all parties in the Christian and other arenas to accomplish the return of all the displaced and the reconstruction of all areas. My task is to restore cohesion in all areas, including those on the mountain, and to return displaced Muslims to al-Maslakh, al-Nab'ah, and al-Karantina, Junblatt added. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Fighters Killed in Attack on Israeli Position

NC0304144093 Paris AFP in English 1409 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, April 3 (AFP)—Two pro-Iranian guerrillas died Saturday when Israeli soldiers repelled their attack in south Lebanon, security sources said.

The Hizballah fighters fired machine guns and anti-tank weapons on an Israeli position at Bayt Lif inside Israel's self-declared security zone, but the Israelis retaliated, killing the two infiltrators, the sources said.

No Israeli casualties were reported.

The Islamic Resistance, Hizballah's paramilitary wing, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement published in Sidon, the largest port in south Lebanon.

It gave no reports of Hizballah casualties.

Islamic Resistance Claims Attack; Shelling Continues

NC0304162793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Israeli attacks on peaceable villages in the south have continued. According to the latest reports the villages of Kafra, Yatar, Haddathah, Haris, and al-Siddiqin have been coming under Israeli artillery shelling since 1430 today. At 1530 two Israeli helicopters raked the wadis between Kafra and Yatar with heavy machine-gun fire.

The Islamic Resistance issued a statement this afternoon saying that one of its groups detonated an explosive device under a mechanized Israeli patrol on the Bayt Lif road at 1430 today. The Israeli enemy brought in reinforcements. Fighting between the Israeli forces and the resistance was still going on at 1600.

The occupation forces shelled Lebanese villages in the liberated areas this morning; 50 heavy-caliber artillery shells had fallen on these villages by 1330 today.

Hizballah Radio Says 3 Israelis Killed 4 Apr

NC0504071293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Yesterday was full of confrontation and resistance to the occupation forces. The occupation army suffered painful blows at the hands of the Islamic Resistance heroes, who proved they can hit the Zionist heart, regardless of sacrifices. The south and western al-Biqa' erupted in flame under the feet of the Zionists, who were stunned by the qualitative level of the heroic mujahidin's operations. The mujahidin inflicted many casualties on the enemies and damaged their military equipment.

The mujahidin of the Islamic Resistance attacked an occupation patrol on the Arnun-Qal'at al-Shaqif road with rockets and machine guns yesterday afternoon. A Rio military truck and a Merkava tank were set on fire, killing three Israeli soldiers. Their bodies were seen lying on the battlefield.

Security sources in the south say an Israeli patrol was caught in an ambush set by Hizballah fighters, who fired their automatic weapons and anti-tank rockets on the patrol, destroying one vehicle.

Islamic Resistance sources announced that the operation was carried out in memory of martyrs of an earlier operation in Arnun: Shadi al-Zayn, Muhammad Fayyad, and Ibrahim 'Ullayq. The sources added that following the operation, several enemy troops evacuated the casualties with helicopter assistance. The Islamic Resistance fighters detonated an explosive device near this group, killing several.

Enemy military sources admitted only that four enemy troops were wounded in the operation.

Driven to a frenzy, the Zionist enemies shelled Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Mayfadun, and al-Hamra' from their position in Qal'at al-Shaqif.

The south and western al-Biqa' were the scene of violent clashes between the Islamist resistance fighters and the occupation forces yesterday. They fought duels with various types of weapons on many fronts. The Islamic fighters repulsed an enemy attempt to advance on Zibqin, forcing the hostile forces to retreat. The criminal enemy, in return, resorted to its brutal method of bombing peaceful villages and innocent civilians.

Eyewitnesses in Arnun reported that a hostile Zionist force of four armored vehicles advanced from its position in Qal'at al-Shaqif to al-Shaqif's western approach at 1630 yesterday. The Israeli troops then set up a checkpoint on the road between Yuhmur and Arnun. The occupation also raked the Kafr Tibnit-Arnun road with heavy machine-gun fire.

Afghanistan

Decree on Cabinet Formation

LD0304154893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] A decree has been issued by the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan regarding the Cabinet:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

As the dissolution of the Cabinet normally takes place after the formal announcement of the new cabinet, and because disruption does not occur in the daily functioning of the affairs between the dissolution of the cabinet and formation of the new cabinet, the existing cabinet can continue working until the announcement of the new cabinet members and approval of this cabinet by the president.

[Signed] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani,
President of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Rabbani Interviewed

LD0204232393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1530 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Interview with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—reporter's questions are in Pashto, Rabbani's answers are in Dari; first paragraph is studio introduction—recorded]

[Text] Dear listeners of Radio Afghanistan. As you have heard in tonight's news bulletin, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received the BIA correspondent and answered his questions. May we draw your attention to this interview:

[Reporter] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan: A draft list of the Cabinet was scheduled to be handed over to you yesterday by Prime Minister Hekmatyar. [word indistinct] Mr. Hekmatyar has also said that the above list was sent, and this morning he announced the Cabinet was dissolved. Have you received this Cabinet list? If it has not yet reached you, can you tell me why it has been delayed?

[Rabbani] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. The Cabinet list has not yet arrived, and I think, as promised before, until the parties have agreed and consultation has been made with those in charge of the parties, a comprehensive list, according to the procedure in connection with the formation of Cabinet, cannot be prepared.

For this reason, the sessions scheduled to be held in Chahar Asiab, such sessions have not yet been held in this place. I advise Mr. Hekmatyar that any list that is going to be prepared must be agreed upon, above all by the parties and especially those in charge of the parties and leaders. As has been promised time and again, they must be consulted, their agreement must be obtained, and then the list should be prepared and sent. Such a thing has not been done. No sessions have yet taken place and no parties or those in charge of the parties have yet expressed their agreement. Under this circumstance, in my view, as I said at the

beginning, we must now form a government and Cabinet where unity of views and cohesion comes into being between the groups and disagreement as a whole disappears. For this reason, every hasty action, before all issues have properly been organized, are premature I think. Because of this, no list has yet reached me, and I am hoping the parties, especially those in charge of the parties, at a joint session or individually, will express their agreement as soon as possible concerning the formation of a Cabinet. They should express their agreement and views, and in light of [passage indistinct] a list is to be prepared and then this can be handed over to the president of the state.

[Reporter] Esteemed President: What is your opinion regarding the result of talks between the Islamic State and Jami'at-e Islami [Islamic Society] delegations with the Hezb-e Islami [Islamic Party] on the issue of the formation of a cabinet and the implementation of the Islamabad accord?

[Rabbani] In order to restore security and bring stability to the Islamic State, the Islamic State took part in the Islamabad session. There we said in the Islamabad accord [word indistinct] that the provisions of this accord must be put into action. Delegations have been dispatched for the implementation of the provisions of this accord. Talks were held regarding the formation of the Cabinet, and so far a result that can be regarded as comprehensive has not been reached. We think that the sessions and gatherings are to be continued so that all issues can be properly discussed. For this reason, the Islamic government has dispatched delegations, and we are still prepared for the [word indistinct] and implementation of the provisions of the accord so that these delegations can take part in future talks.

[Reporter] What is your opinion regarding the complete implementation of the accord? If there are any violations, what remedies are there?

[Rabbani] We are hoping that the entire provisions of the accord are being implemented. Definitely one of the points included in the accord prescribes the consolidation of security and restoration of peace, as well as prevention of armed clashes, which should no longer take place. The reason for the accord was this very objective so that our persecuted people would no longer suffer and they would be secure from armed clashes and rocket attacks. On the basis of this, we are confident that henceforth no one will allow a repetition of the past tragic episodes to take place in Kabul. We are confident of the implementation of aspects of the accord signed by them. The fundamental issue in the accord is the prevention of struggles and clashes and the end of armed conflicts. I am hoping that no one, under any circumstances, will allow himself to disrupt peace and security and embark on such actions that bring about discomfort and cause worry to our people in Kabul city and other regions of the country.

[Reporter] Most people ask about the process of the formation of a cabinet. What is your comment in this regard?

[Rabbani] The main factor for the slowness of this process is the non-holding of the envisaged sessions that should have been held; the fact that these sessions that should have been held have not yet been held. The parties and groups that

should have expressed their decisive views and most of the esteemed leaders were not present; they were abroad on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, and they have not yet all returned to the country. For this (?reason), the issue is still not being solved. The main reason for the slowness is the absence of the esteemed leaders. I am hoping that when they return, and after they express their agreement, this problem will be solved. I hope the issue will be solved as soon as possible and the esteemed leaders will express their views regarding the formation of the new cabinet and that the present difficulty we are facing can be solved.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. President, for answering my questions.

Hekmatyar Submits List

LD0204214193 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian* 1930 GMT
2 Apr 93

[Text] With the naming of the new ministers, the former Afghan Cabinet has been dissolved. Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar spoke to correspondents today after sending a list of the new Afghan ministers and ministries to Borhanoddin Rabbani, the country's president. He said: in the new Cabinet, the Ministries of Defense, the Interior, and Foreign Affairs, will be run by councils. He added that until Rabbani presents the new ministers, the former deputy ministers would be in charge of the ministries.

He said: From today the running of all the affairs relating to the Defense Ministry and the country's military units has been entrusted to a military commission, and any order issued without coordinating with the commission will be invalid and will be seen as a violation of the Islamabad peace agreement.

Hekmatyar also called on all the jihadi groups to send all the POW's they are holding for exchange to the Char Aseyab region, west of Kabul, within the next two days.

Sayyaf Says Consultations Lacking

LD0304205993 *Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari* 1530 GMT 3 Apr 93

[News conference addressed by Abdorrah Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami-e of Afghanistan, in Kabul on 3 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Sayyaf] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Last night I heard through the mass media the news that Brother Hekmatyar had presented the list of cabinet members to the esteemed President of state. Meanwhile, he claimed that he has completed the consultations with leaders of organizations as envisaged in the Islamabad Accord.

So far as Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union of Afghanistan] is concerned, the envisaged consultation has not been conducted with our organization.

Twice I sent delegations to Brother Hekmatyar to exchange views with him in this respect, and twice Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] delegations met with me. At

the four meetings Hezb-e Eslami insisted that we give it a list of some members of our organization so that he could select two of them as ministers.

Obviously, asking for a list does not mean consultations. Consultation required that we should discuss all aspects of the cabinet, taking into account the effectiveness and strength of organizations, and views should have been exchanged on people's competence and capabilities.

But right up to the last day of the announcement of the cabinet we have not been told which ministry was envisaged for which organization. [passage omitted]

Our request to the esteemed president is that he should pay attention to the principle of consultation with us and other organizations, and make his final decision after consultations with leaders of organizations.

Had Brother Hekmatyar been appointed prime minister as a result of elections by the nation or as a result of complete control on the situation of Afghanistan, we would have given him the right to select his cabinet without consultation with us. But the premiership was given to him under an understanding, so as to do away with tension and hostilities. And this requires that government positions should also be distributed on the basis of understanding and exchange of views which unfortunately has not taken place. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified journalist] In connection with the formation of the cabinet, Mr. Hekmatyar told us that Jamiat-e Eslami should be satisfied with holding the presidency and Hezb-e Eslami with the premiership. Other positions should be distributed on equal terms other to organizations.

He said that his cabinet would not represent the opposition. I don't know whether this matter has been taken into account in the list presented to the president. What is your specific view on the cabinet?

[Sayyaf] So far I do not know about the contents of the list. [passage omitted] To speak more clearly, about the views that are reflected by radio broadcasts about the Ministry of Defense, our party's specific view is that if we take into account realities and the heart-rending circumstances of the people of Kabul, for the time being no change should be introduced in Kabul's security arrangements so that we do not lose what we have now in this respect. It is my view that no change should take place in this respect. Otherwise no-one may guarantee the future of the situation. For the time being my view is that minister of defense should continue in the interim period. [passage omitted]

[Journalist] What is your view about the dissolving of the cabinet?

[Sayyaf] What I can say in this respect from the point of view of law and legality is that the proposed cabinet can acquire legality only when party leaders agree upon it and is approved by the president, and when it is officially declared by the president. So long as the new cabinet has not passed through the legal process, the present cabinet should continue work.

[Journalist] What is your view about the future of Afghanistan if this process fails to be implemented?

[Sayyaf] It is our duty to try until the last moment for the restoration of peace. It is our duty! The future belongs to God. Only He knows what will happen.

President's Press Office Comments

LD0304215893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The BIA asked the press office of the Presidency of the Islamic State of Afghanistan for information about the proposed list of the cabinet by Esteemed Golboddin Hekmatyar. Esteemed Aziz Morad, head of the press office, said: The list of the proposed cabinet was presented this morning to the presidency by a delegation of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] so that the president of Afghanistan can make a decision on its amendment, acceptance or rejection in keeping with his legal authority. Because the Islamabad Accord was signed for the prevention of killing and destruction in the country, the composition of the cabinet should be in line with consultation with jihadi leaders, security considerations, and the proportion of parties' strength. Until a new cabinet is officially announced, the present cabinet will continue to work.

Factions Discuss New Cabinet

LD0504104493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Mr. Arqandiwal, the representative of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan], yesterday met Mr. Mazari, the general secretary of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan], to whom he presented the names of the new cabinet and discussed the means and reasons for their selection.

Another report from Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami indicates that residential areas in western Kabul, particularly the Azadegan plain, was the target of missile attacks by the Hezb-e Etehad-e Eslami Sayaf [Islamic Union Party (Sayaf)] last night, which killed and wounded a number of the residents. The Hezb-e Wahdat-e retaliated, killing and wounding a number of their opponents.

Mojaddedi on Mecca Agreement, Interference

NC0304150193 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 31 Mar 93 p2

[Interview with former Afghan President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi by Ashraf al-Ishari in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Ishari] First, what are the reasons for your opposition to the Mecca agreement [between the warring Afghan factions], which some people regard as the correct beginning for healing the rift in the Afghan mujahedin ranks?

[Mojaddedi] There are important and urgent issues that the Mecca agreement does not include, such as the comprehensive reconciliation in Afghanistan, the formation of a

national government, and the formation of a national parliament that includes all the leaders of the factions, not just specific ones. The Mecca agreement calls for the formation of a committee that includes politicians and jurists to study an acceptable formula. It has not adopted a unified strategy for national reconciliation between all the factions in these difficult times. Even though three full weeks have passed since this agreement was concluded, its essence and main points have not become clear; no official statements have been issued about the Afghan Government. This agreement is weak and fragile and it has not adopted a complete and comprehensive formula for tackling the deteriorating situations in Afghanistan and for bringing all the leaders and factions together in one national government or parliament that will include all the factions.

Anyhow, there is still an opportunity to review and amend this agreement to make it compatible with the Afghan people's political and economic situations, resolve all disputes, prepare for the stage of reconstruction and of restoring life to normal, and agree on the clear outlines of the strategy for rule in Afghanistan, particularly as everyone there is fully convinced of the need to renounce the use of violence in settling disputes.

[Al-Ishari] Is it true that the Mecca agreement was a clear call to stop, forever, the fighting between the Afghan factions' leaders?

[Mojaddedi] Whoever said this was wrong. We believe—and many leaders of the other factions share our belief—that it is no more than a temporary truce, during which the warring factions will rest for a period of time, reorganize, and reequip themselves in preparation for the renewed eruption of the fighting whenever the agreement is violated. The agreement has not dealt with the overall situation in Afghanistan, but sought to conclude a temporary reconciliation. The bases for this agreement are not clear and it does not seek a comprehensive reconciliation. As I said, it is a temporary truce as evidenced by the fact that its main clauses have not been made public yet. The majority of the Afghan people and leaders have not read it.

[Al-Ishari] Do you agree with the call to host international and Islamic forces to supervise the implementation of the Mecca agreement clauses if the Afghans fail to comply with them?

[Mojaddedi] Merely allowing such forces to enter Afghan territories will be the first step toward the eruption of battles, and will open the door wide for a new civil war in Kabul that will involve the forces of the Islamic countries that might be supporting some factions against others. Everyone should know—whether in the Islamic world, the Arab world, or anywhere else—that the agreement concluded in Mecca has not openly called for bringing in forces from neighboring countries to supervise the cease-fire or help any faction in Kabul. The factions also have no intention to bring in such forces because the mujahedin are fully convinced that the Afghan people are capable of implementing their tasks without asking for the help of others if a comprehensive reconciliation agreement is reached.

[Al-'Ishari] How do you view Iranian interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs through its financial support and supplies of weapons to certain factions?

[Mojaddedi] Such intervention is, of course, rejected and is opposed by the great majority of the Afghan factions and people. We condemn any intervention of any kind or form.

Rabbani Meets Pakistani Delegation

LD0304175093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, met today esteemed Maulana Fazlur Rahman, secretary general and president of the Jamiat-i Ulema-i Islami [Alliance for Establishment of Islamic Law] of Pakistan. This meeting was attended by esteemed Professor Abdorrob Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami-e [Islamic Union] of Afghanistan, and a number of ministers and members of the Jamiat-i Ulema-i Islami of Pakistan.

In his statement the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan above all welcomed the arrival of the delegation in Kabul and expressed appreciation for the all-around assistance to the 14-year-long legitimate Jihad of Afghanistan's people by the Jamiat-i Ulema-i Islami of Pakistan. Maulana Fazlur Rahman, secretary general and president of the Jamiat-i Ulema-i Islami of Pakistan, then expressed his delight in meeting the esteemed president of Afghanistan. He promised further assistance to the Islamic State of Afghanistan. According to a BIA report, other subjects of mutual interest—in particular, measures for the actual implementation of the Islamabad accord, restoration of security, and the opening of highways—were also discussed at this meeting.

Esteemed Professor Sayyaf spoke at this meeting about the need for ending the fighting in Afghanistan and ways to solve this problem. He added: Fighting has taken our people to the abyss of destruction. Because of this, we should observe moderation in our practices.

Bangladesh

Dhaka-Delhi Talks on Water-Sharing 'Failure'

BK0404091393 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 1 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] The two-day long expert-level talks between Bangladesh and India on the sharing of waters of the common rivers, which concluded in Dhaka yesterday, was a total failure. At the end of the meeting the leader of the 11-member Indian delegation, C.D. Thatte, who is also the Water Resources Secretary told waiting newsmen that they have decided not to talk to journalists. The leader of the 12-member Bangladesh delegation, M. Asafuddaula, who is also the Flood Control Secretary said the Indian side has no sympathy for the hardships and miseries of Bangladesh.

No joint communique was issued after the talks. It has been learnt that the Indian side refused to endorse the joint communique which was prepared on the basis of this

meeting. The Indian delegation will leave Dhaka today. The Indian delegation did not agree to the proposal for joint monitoring of the current flow of the Ganges waters into Bangladesh and the actual water available in the Ganges before any diversion.

Bangladeshi delegation sources said that efforts made to apprise the Indian delegation of the hardships of the people of this country were futile. The Joint Expert Committee meeting held in Delhi last December also failed to reach an accord on the water sharing issue. After the talks failed in Dhaka yesterday, Indian Doordarshan [Television] in its news said that Indian experts have told their Bangladeshi counterparts in Dhaka that the flow of Ganges water into Bangladesh can only be increased by digging a link canal through Bangladesh connecting the River Brahmaputra with the River Ganges.

After the meeting yesterday, the leader of the Bangladesh delegation, Asafuddaula, told ITTEFAQ that any further talks would not yield any result unless the Indian side changed their stand and attitude.

When asked to comment on the outcome of the talks, an Indian delegate said mildly that it was excellent. But the Bangladeshi side said that it was frustrating. Asafuddaula said that Bangladesh has committed no offence that it should suffer the unbearable hardships and miseries. He said that as a small country Bangladesh has to suffer and added by saying that a big country should be broad-minded. The leader of the Bangladeshi delegation added that they had offered to provide a helicopter to the Indian delegation in order to enable them to visit the Hardinge Bridge and see for themselves the hardships caused to the vast population of Bangladesh because of the water shortage resulting from the upstream diversion of water from the Ganges, but the Indians rejected the proposal.

Representatives of the Indian media questioned the leader of the Bangladesh delegation as to whether the Indian side has given any proposal regarding the employment of international experts for monitoring the flow of the River Ganges. In reply, he asked what could be monitored when even the water sharing issue had not been decided. Bangladesh has already done the monitoring by using the most modern techniques. There is nothing here excepting sand to measure.

Among others who attended the talks were the Bangladesh high commissioner to India, Faruq Sobhan; the Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, K. Raghunath; the Bangladesh Water Development Board chairman, M.A. Razzak; and the chairman of the Indian Water Commission, N.S. Reddy. Before the end of the talks the leader of the Indian delegation, Thatte, paid a courtesy call on Irrigation Minister Majedul Haq at his secretariat.

Tribal Insurgents Agree To Extend Cease-Fire

BK0504072593 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 31 Mar 93 p 12

[By Khagrachari correspondent]

[Text] Chittagong Hill Tracts People's Solidarity Council has agreed to the proposal of the Bangladesh Government Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts to extend the time limit of the cease-fire to 31 May. This proposal was sent through the Liaison Committee. The council has also requested the government to hold the next round of talks in the last week of April. This was stated in a press release issued by the Information and Publicity Division of the Chittagong Hill Tracts People's Solidarity Council.

Convenor of the Liaison Committee Shangshdhajan Chakma gave the press release to newspaper correspondents yesterday.

The press release said that the council sincerely desires a political and peaceful solution to the Chittagong Hill Tracts problem in the greater interest of Bangladesh. It added that the council has decided to extend the time limit of the cease-fire with a view to establish a congenial atmosphere in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

On 14 March, the Liaison Committee, on behalf of the Bangladesh Government Committee, wrote a letter to the Chittagong Hill Tracts People's Solidarity Council proposing to extend the time limit of the cease-fire from 31 March to 31 May. The letter also stated that a Bangladesh delegation headed by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, who is also the convenor of the government committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts will visit India at the invitation of the Indian Government and tour the refugee camps in Tripura.

Their visit could not take place in March due to the budget session of the Indian parliament and the fasting month of Ramadan in Bangladesh. It is likely to take place either at the middle or end of April. The next date for dialogue with the Chittagong Hill Tracts People's Solidarity Council will be fixed after the visit to India.

Russian Ambassador Meets Justice Minister 1 Apr

BK0104165693 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] The present government is trying to improve the lot of the toiling masses by institutionalizing the democratic process now obtaining in the country. Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mr. Golam Hafiz said this while exchanging views with the Russian ambassador, Mr. Shevchenko, in Dhaka today. They expressed their happiness over the existing friendly and cordial relations between Bangladesh and Russia and hoped it will grow further day by day.

DPRK Vice President Meets Officials, Departs

Meets With Prime Minister Zia

BK0304160893 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The visiting special envoy of President Kim Il-song of North Korea, Yi Chong-ok, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in Dhaka today. During the meeting, Mr. Yi, who is the vice president of his country, conveyed

an invitation of President Kim Il-song to Begum Zia to visit the country. He said the purpose of his visit to Bangladesh is mainly to convey the invitation in person from the president. Mr. Yi said North Korea is eagerly looking forward to further strengthening the bilateral relations with Bangladesh. He recalled the role of shahid [martyred] President Ziaur Rahman in promoting the bilateral relations between the two countries and said DPRK will cooperate with Bangladesh in the exploitation of [name indistinct] project. Mr. Yi expressed solidarity on behalf of his government and people in the struggle of Bangladesh in consolidating democracy under the leadership of Begum Zia. He said North Korea hopes the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] will make significant contribution to the development of the region.

Welcoming the visiting special envoy of DPRK, Begum Zia recalled the traditional relationship between the two countries. She expressed the hope that her visit to DPRK will take place at mutually convenient time. The prime minister also expressed the hope that the bilateral relations between the two countries will be further strengthened. She wished DPRK further prosperity under the leadership of President Kim Il-song.

The special envoy left Dhaka today at the end of his four-day visit to Bangladesh.

Meets President Biswas 1 Apr

BK0104165293 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Text] Vice President and Special Envoy of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's of Republic of Korea, Mr. Yi Chong-ok called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas in Banga Bhavan [President's House] today. During the discussions, President Biswas appreciated existing close and friendly relations between Bangladesh and DPRK. President Biswas said the balance of trade between Bangladesh and DPRK is adverse to Bangladesh and hoped that DPRK would cooperate in balancing the trade relations. He also conveyed his personal regards and best wishes to president Kim Il-song.

Joint Venture Jute Mills in Sri Lanka Planned

BK0204161093 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Four Bangladeshi firms will set up jute mills in Colombo in collaboration with their Sri Lankan partners. This was disclosed by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman while talking to newsmen at Zia International Airport on his return from Colombo this afternoon. He said several local jute mills in the state and private sectors are now prepared to relocate their factories in Colombo under joint venture. The finance minister led a delegation to the third session of Bangladesh-Sri Lanka joint commission on economic cooperation in Colombo. He said both sides have agreed to explore the possibility of establishing (?trade-creating) joint ventures. At the session, Bangladesh offered to conclude long-term arrangements for supply of jute goods and urea to Sri Lanka. Colombo has taken note of these proposals. Mr.

Rahman said a Sri Lankan delegation will soon visit Dhaka, while a Bangladeshi trade team will go to Colombo to further cement the existing trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. During his stay in Colombo, the finance minister called on Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa and Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge and visited a free trade zone.

India

Pawar Says Pakistan Linked to Bombay Blasts

BK0304164893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1635 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] New Delhi, April 3 (AFP)—The Pakistani intelligence was involved in explosions that killed some 300 people in Bombay on March 12, the administrator of a western Indian province said Saturday.

Chief Minister Sharad Pawar of Maharashtra state, of which Bombay is the capital, said Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) was definitely linked to the deadly blasts which also injured more than 1,400 others.

"The Pakistani involvement in the blasts is becoming increasingly clear" with the arrests of more than 50 suspects, he told reporters here. "Many of the boys were trained in Pakistan," he added, referring to the arrested men.

Pawar, a top leader of India's ruling Congress (I) party, was the defence minister here when Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao appointed him as the chief minister of Maharashtra. He took office on March 6.

Indian investigators say Muslim gangsters were responsible for carrying out the bomb attacks. New Delhi has said six key suspects, at least two of whom are linked to the underworld, have fled the country.

Pawar, in an obvious reference to the massive hauls of high-powered explosives near Bombay in recent days, said the police crackdown on the Bombay underworld was paying rich dividends. He said it had helped uncover "the master-plan of anti-national elements."

Police hauled up 58 jute sacks containing 1,440 kilograms (3,168 pounds) of RDX and 880 kilograms (1,936 pounds) of gelatine from creeks near Bombay on Friday. Police say the Bombay bombers had used heat-generating RDX and semtex.

On March 26, police seized 1,496 kilograms (3,291 pounds) of explosives from a locked flat in a partly-built apartment complex north of Bombay.

Bombay Muslims Condemn Pakistan

BK0304160293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] A 13-member delegation of the India-Pakistan Council has urged the Pakistan Government to apprehend the prime suspects of the Bombay blasts and hand them over to Indian authorities. The delegation included the Gandhian leader, Dr. Usha Mehta, and the Islamic scholars

Dr. Rafiq Zakaria and Asghar Ali Engineer. In a memorandum to the Consul General of Pakistan in Bombay, the council members said that protection of the suspects could only further strain the relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, over 30 prominent representatives of leading Muslim organizations in Bombay have condemned the alleged role of Pakistan and its local agents in the recent bomb blasts.

Over 3,800 KG Explosives Seized

BK0404040293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The Bombay police have launched vigorous search operations to seize over 3,000 kilograms of explosives reported to be concealed around Bombay, Thane, and Kangan belt. According to police officials, over 3,800 kilograms of explosives had already been seized from Mungra and Thane. The official said that about 7,000 kilograms of explosives were brought into Raigarh District and preliminary estimates say 300 kilograms of explosives were used in the recent Bombay explosions.

Reportage on Situation in Kashmir

Strike Called, 15 Dead

BK03C4004293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1710 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] Jammu, India, April 2 (AFP)—A strike called by Muslim guerrillas to protest the murder of a heart surgeon crippled the Kashmir valley Friday, as 15 people died in violence linked to a separatist campaign, officials said.

Shops and businesses closed their shutters in response to the shutdown called by the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), one of the dominant Muslim guerrilla groups fighting to secede Kashmir from India.

Government offices reported poor attendance, the officials said.

The rebels fought running battles with Indian security forces during the strike using grenades and automatic weapons, in Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir state, the officials said here.

An official spokesman five militants and 10 civilians were killed and four Indian soldiers were injured across the valley in violence linked to the bloody separatist campaign. But he gave no details.

Friday's protest was also backed by the powerful Hizb ul Mojahedin group, a rival to the JKLF.

Gunmen abducted cardiologist Abdul Ahad Guru, 52, by two men posing as hitchhikers in Srinagar on Wednesday. His bullet-riddled body was found in the city Thursday.

The JKLF said Guru was one of its senior members and was en route to a meeting when he was seized. Police said he had been killed by rival guerrillas.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the rebels. Islamabad denies the charge, but supports the separatist campaign, calling it a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

India and Pakistan hold parts of Kashmir and have twice gone to war over it.

Pakistan Blamed for Terror Campaign

BK0404090893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, has said that the stepped up terror campaign by Pakistan to undermine the move to restore the political process in the state will not be allowed to succeed. Talking to PTI he held the pro-Pakistan Hezbul Mojahedin militant group responsible for the murder of noted cardiologist Dr. Abdul Ahad Guru. He has called upon the Center to announce a political and economic package to the state without any delay.

Border Reported 'Peaceful'

BK0404125093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation, including the areas near the border, is peaceful. An official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that a strict vigil is being maintained by the security forces.

Two Militants Dead, 35 Arrested

BK0504020093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the situation in the entire state including areas near the border is peaceful. An official spokesman told AIR's [All India Radio] Jammu correspondent that a tight vigil is being maintained by security forces. Three persons including two militants have been killed in encounters with security forces in the state since yesterday evening. Security forces also apprehended 35 militants during search operation. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered.

High Court Ruling on Rule in Madhya Pradesh Viewed

Court Quashes Presidential Proclamation

BK0204125793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The Madhya Pradesh High Court today quashed the presidential proclamation dismissing the Sundarlal Patwa government and imposing presidential rule in the state in December last year. The court, however, stayed the operation of its order for two weeks from today to enable the union government to move the Supreme Court. The Jabalpur bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court headed by the chief justice, Mr. S.K. Jha, held that the Madhya Pradesh governor's report sent to the center on the worsening of the law and order situation in Bhopal and two other

cities at the state in the aftermath of the Ayodhya incidents cannot be considered reasonable for imposing president's rule in the state. The order further says that there was no material proof in existence at that time to conclude that the constitutional machinery in the state had broken down.

The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, declined to comment on the judgment saying it has to be studied first. Approached by newsmen in New Delhi, he, however, pointed out that in the past, the courts had held the view that the presidential proclamation under Article-356 is not justifiable.

Central Government Opposes Ruling

BK0304035493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The center has decided to move the Supreme Court against a Madhya Pradesh High Court judgment quashing the presidential proclamation dismissing the Sundarlal Patwa government. This was stated by the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, in New Delhi yesterday.

The full bench of the High Court while quashing the proclamation stayed the operation of its verdict for two weeks to give time to the government to file an appeal in the Supreme Court.

Reaction to the judgment has been in party lines. While the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders have welcomed it, other parties say it has serious constitutional implications. Mr. Patwa has demanded that the court order be implemented forthwith. Other BJP leaders who have welcomed the judgment include Mr. L.K. Advani and the party vice president, Mr. Sunder Singh Bhandari. A member of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] politburo, Mr. S.R. Pillai, says that the court decision has serious constitutional implications as the president's authority has been challenged. The Telugu Desam leader, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, said his party had all along maintained that Article 356 of the constitution which provides for imposition of president's rule should be deleted to avoid its misuse for political purposes.

BJP Calls For New Elections

BK0404074293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0718 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] New Delhi, April 4 (AFP)—Indian Hindu revivalists, buoyed by a court verdict quashing the recent dismissal of one of four Hindu nationalist state governments, have renewed their campaign for new elections.

Lal Krishna Advani, leader of the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), or Indian People's Party, said Saturday that Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao had lost the moral authority to rule following the verdict.

He said Friday's court judgment overturning the dismissal of the state administration of Madhya Pradesh state in the wake of the destruction of the Babri mosque in December amounted to "an indictment of the Rao government," which has two years remaining in its five-year term.

Advani, touted by the BJP as a future prime minister, told reporters that Rao should quit and order early general elections over the verdict, seen as a setback for the Congress (I) party government and as a timely boost for the BJP.

He also demanded the immediate reinstatement of the Hindu nationalist BJP state governments in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

The four BJP state administrations were sacked after the December 6 destruction of the 16th-century Babri mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu zealots, an act that triggered bloody Hindu-Muslim riots.

The BJP has led an emotive campaign for a Hindu temple on the site of the Moghul-built mosque, which Hindu fundamentalists claim stood on the ruins of a Lord Rama temple.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court ruled Friday that the state government's dismissal was "uncalled for" because New Delhi had cited no specific "deeds or misdeeds" to justify the sacking.

However, Rao, 71, made light of the verdict, ruling out a reinstatement of the BJP state administrations and adding that his government would appeal to the Supreme Court.

"What setback? There is no setback," Rao told reporters in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad Saturday.

The Madhya Pradesh ruling came three days after a court ruled that Maharashtra state chief minister and key Rao associate, Sharad Pawar, had been guilty of "character assassination" of an opposition politician who lost a local election.

"It is a setback to us but it is temporary," Congress spokesman Vithal Gadgil said Sunday of the latest verdict. "It is all in the game."

He ruled out early elections but added without elaboration: "If the Supreme Court upholds the verdicts it will be an embarrassment. Then we will have to reconsider our position."

The twin rulings embarrassing the ruling party gave the BJP the boost it badly needed.

Politically isolated after the razing of the mosque, the BJP adopted a low profile after government security forces ruthlessly crushed its attempt to stage a banned rally here on February 25.

Its failure to hold the rally after building it up as a major trial of strength with the government was seen as a setback for the BJP and a victory for Rao, who consolidated it with a widely-admired market-friendly budget.

The prime minister emerged further rejuvenated from a Congress (I) party conclave in late March that gave him an overwhelming vote of confidence.

Still, analysts said the court ruling had neutralised the gains.

"Nothing could have been more inopportune" for Rao, THE STATESMAN said in an editorial Sunday.

THE TIMES OF INDIA added that the verdict could result in a constitutional crisis pitting the executive against the judiciary, and saw it as a gain for the BJP.

It noted the irony in a court ruling bolstering the Hindu revivalist party, which has consistently expressed a lack of faith in the judiciary and steadfastly opposed the involvement of courts in the Ayodhya dispute.

BJP Leader Statement

BK0304154893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader Mr. L.K. Advani has demanded the revival of the Sundarlal Patwa government pending an appeal against the Madhya Pradesh High Court judgment quashing the president's rule in the state. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he termed the verdict as an indictment of the central government. Mr. Advani did not agree with the view that president's proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution is beyond judicial review. He, however, said the BJP is against the repeal of this constitutional provision.

Nine Militants Killed in Punjab

BK0404042093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] In Punjab nine militants, including one hard-core, were killed in various encounters with security forces last night. According to an official spokesman, one hard-core militant was killed in (Jagrao) area of Ludhiana District. Fifteen kilograms of explosive materials and other arms and ammunition were recovered. Elsewhere in the state, three militants were killed in Majitha area of Amritsar District, two in Barnala area of Sangrur, and one each in Bhatinda and Ludhiana Districts.

Voting in Tripura, Andhra Pradesh Elections

BK0304151693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] In Tripura, heavy polling has been reported from all over the state. Quoting official sources, our Agartala correspondent Ved Barua reports that 65 to 70 percent of the electorate exercised their franchise by 1600 this evening. According to police sources, one person died and seven others were injured in group clashes in different places of the state. A polling official was attacked by miscreants and has been hospitalized. Police recovered some arms and ammunition. About 12 persons were arrested in connection with violent incidents in Dharmanagar subdivision of North Tripura District.

In Andhra Pradesh, the polling in the assembly by-elections in Panyam and Rayachoty constituencies was by and large peaceful today. According to reports reaching Hyderabad, over 70 percent voters exercised their franchise. The main contest in both the constituencies is between the Congress-I and the TDP [Telugu Desam Party]. The chief minister, Mr. K. Vijaya Bhaskar Reddy, is seeking his entry into the

assembly from Panyam where TDP MP Mrs. Renuka Chaudhary is his opponent. Seven independent candidates are also in the fray.

Death Toll Rises to 3

BK0404035093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] In Tripura, counting of votes begins tomorrow morning for the assembly elections. Polling was held yesterday to elect a 60-member assembly. First results are expected by tomorrow evening. Our Agartala correspondent reports that all the sealed ballot boxes have been brought under heavy police escort.

According to police sources, two more persons succumbed to injuries in the hospital raising the number of dead in poll related violence to three.

'Antisocial' Elements Arrested in Calcutta

BK0404160093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] In West Bengal, the police in massive raids apprehended 895 anti-social elements from different parts of Calcutta. About 100 live bombs, 8 revolvers, and 18 live cartridges have been recovered. A number of electronic goods, generators, and hard cash worth 25,000 rupees were also seized.

Gurkhas Revive Demand for Separate State

BK0204161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Apr 93

[Text] The Gurkha National Liberation Front, GNLF, has decided to revive its demand for a separate state of Gurkhaland. The decision was taken by the Central Committee of GNLF at its meeting in Darjeeling today. After the meeting, the president of the GNLF and the chairman of the Gurkha Hill Council [GHC], Mr. Subhash Ghising, told our Kurseong correspondent that it has also been decided to submit a memorandum to the prime minister on these issues. He alleged that the West Bengal government did not implement the GHC Act of 1988 in letter and spirit while encroaching upon the powers and functions of the Hill Council.

Narora Nuclear Power Plant To Restart

BK0304160493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] The first unit of the Narora Atomic Power Station is likely to be restarted in about four months. It has been shut down following a fire in its steel turbine generator on Tuesday. The chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Chidambaram, after visiting Narora expressed the view that the fire may be incidental. He said two expert committees are investigating the matter and will give interim reports in a week.

Inflation Rate Drops to 6.76 Percent

BK0504034093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] The annual rate of inflation on point-to-point basis fell marginally to 6.76 percent for the week ended 20th of last month compared to 6.84 for the previous week. The wholesale price index also fell marginally for the week. The drop in wholesale price index is mainly on account of a 0.3 percent decline in index for primary articles.

INSAT-2B Scheduled for June Launch

BK0504081493 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Text] The INSAT-2B is getting ready for launch in June this year. The satellite is at present undergoing various tests at ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] Satellite Center in Bangalore.

Unlike the INSAT-1 series, the INSAT-2B has six extended transponders in addition to 12 normal ones. It has two TV transponders. The Very High Resolution Radio meter or the VHRR payload has got infra-red and visible detectors to enable 24 hour coverages of the earth for meteorological purposes. An ultra high-frequency data relay transponder will measure wind conditions, humidity, and other weather data transmitted by ground and ocean-based data collection platform. A search and rescue payload will help reach aid to inaccessible areas in distress.

The INSAT-2B is now undergoing various tests under simulated conditions before launching off on board the European launch vehicle Ariane from Kourou in French Guiana.

Iran

U.S. 'Strategy' on Peace Talks Criticized

LD0504104393 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 5 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' criticized Washington for making Iran a "scapegoat" for its failure to revive the ninth round of Mideast 'peace talks' saying this only went to prove that U.S. strategy was "far removed from reality."

Referring to U.S. claims on violation of the rules of Mideast negotiations by Iran, the daily said in its editorial today that Washington involved Iran in a dispute which "primarily concerns the Arabs and Zionists" and has no direct bearing on the Islamic Republic.

The motive is clear, said the paper: Washington could not bear to see the Islamic Republic standing as a "bulwark" against its hegemonistic policies in this part of the world, and therefore it had to spread canards about Iran.

"If there is any violation of laws, it's from Washington's side, given the fact that it is imposing its biased, one-sided rules and supporting Israeli-sponsored state terrorism."

The daily added, "more significant, it's turning a blind eye to the gross violations by Israel of important Security Council resolutions, which are the basic issues of the peace talks."

It said the international chorus for the Palestinian cause was gaining momentum. "Even in Israel the common man seeks peace and tranquility in the region."

Commentary on Mubarak's Trip to Europe, U.S.

LD0304122793 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 3 Apr 93*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] During a three-day visit to Britain, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met with that country's prime minister. Mubarak's visit to Britain follows his trip to Germany and takes place just before he goes to America.

During his European tour, the Egyptian president pursued two main goals. The first concerned domestic problems in Egypt and that country's political and economic situation, and the second relates to the political situation in the Middle East, particularly the so-called Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The Egyptian Government is now facing many political and economic problems on the domestic front and Hosni Mubarak is trying, during this visit, to explain the domestic situation in Egypt to encourage Western countries and America to provide Egypt with more financial aid. [passage omitted]

In his European tour, Mubarak is attempting to magnify the threat of Islam for the West in order to take advantage of Western governments' influence in international circles. He hopes thereby to prevent condemnations of his regime's anti-human crimes.

The second axis of Mubarak's efforts concentrates on the situation of the compromise [Arab-Israeli] talks which are to resume in Washington in three weeks time. [passage omitted]

In his confrontation with the wave of Islamic fundamentalists inside the country, Mubarak will possibly continue to receive Western support. Will he, however, be able to change America's policies in support of Israel? Experts believe that his mission will fail in that regard.

The outcome of Rabin's visit to Washington, and America's ensuring of Israel's supremacy, and also the recent remarks of the Secretary of State Warren Christopher, announcing Washington's support for the immigration of Jews to Israel at a time when America's foreign policy blocks any legal and international move for the return of the Palestinian deportees to their homeland, are indicative of the fact that America has planned the Middle East compromise at Arab expense.

Algerian Decision To Sever Ties Analyzed

NC0504114493 *Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Mar 93 p 2*

[Editorial: "Temporary Tactics"]

[Text] The ruling government in Algeria declared it had severed its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and had simultaneously summoned its ambassador from the Sudan.

The above news has been received in Tehran political circles with a great deal of surprise—and for very obvious reasons. During the past 3 months the embassies in both countries had undertaken new rounds of diplomatic efforts to normalize relations, and in fact Algiers had demonstrated a greater degree of enthusiasm for the improvement of ties. The Algerian Foreign Ministry had even proposed an official visit by an Iranian delegation, and Tehran had agreed with the trip of delegation at the level of the director-general of the relevant department. And then, at a time when preparations were being made for the proposed trip, the Algerian leaders (composed mainly of military men) suddenly decided to cut off ties with Iran.

Informed political observers in the region are of the opinion that internal conditions in Algeria are reaching a critical stage, and rumours about an impending coup d'etat in the Algerian capital were gaining ground.

Undoubtedly the growth of Islamic movements in this part of the world have faced two countries with particularly insurmountable problems. Egypt and Algeria are both confronted with growing Islamic tendencies, and the leaders in both countries have found it convenient to focus on a foreign government as a scapegoat towards which they can direct their propaganda about foreign interference in the internal affairs of their countries. In the past few months we have been witness to extensive efforts on the part of both the Algerian and the Egyptian leaders to prove that Iran's relations with all North African countries had reached a critical stage, whereas in fact Iran has been maintaining very satisfactory ties with Libya and Sudan, and her relations with Morocco and Tunisia have improved to the ambassadorial level.

The recent hasty measure by the Algerian leaders can distract the public opinion in the region for only one or two weeks. Basically the Algerian leaders have no choice but to come to terms with the fact that it is impossible to continue a suppressive rule in opposition to the determination of the brave Algerian nation. The leaders in Algeria should realize that the future of Algeria will be shaped by the political aspirations of its people, and not by the number of bullets held by the army.

Commentary Says Algerian Regime 'Cannot Last'

NC0504110793 *Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Mar 93 p 2*

[Unattributed commentary: "What the Algerian Coupists Should Know"]

[Text] Algeria has severed its diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. This requires contemplation. It

speaks of a profound impasse in the diplomacy of the ruling council in Algeria. Severing their diplomatic relations with Iran, the Algerian officials have resorted to the same cliché and repetitive pretext as their American masters and have propounded terrorism, interference in Algeria's domestic affairs, and other slogans as reasons for severing their ties with Iran—slogans that are always voiced by dictatorships to mask their domestic problems and to deceive the public.

Algerian officials feel rage toward Iran because in 1991, Iran did not attach any value or credibility to the imposed and despotic rule in Algeria, the dictators of which showed no respect for the true votes of the Muslim people, whose rights and aspirations were sacrificed for the Algerian coup leaders' thirst for power. Iran considers illegitimate a government that comes to power by trampling on its people's votes and by suppressing and massacring its people. This is logical and understandable.

Iran does not say it is happy with the Algerian Government severing diplomatic ties with Tehran, because any incident that puts a distance between the Iranian Government and nation and the oppressed people of Algeria is unfavorable for Islamic Iran.

The decision by the suppressive Algerian regime to sever its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, a decision made under pressure by its American masters, will further isolate the Algerian regime in Islam. By resorting to such acts, the Algerian leaders cannot turn the attention of the alert nation from the chaos and instability in the country to events outside Algeria.

Since they trampled on the nation's vote in the 1991 election, the coup leaders in Algeria have been unable to enjoy stability and tranquility. This is why they have always tried to aim baseless accusations at others and to distort facts in a bid to hide their inefficiency, incapability, and incompetence when it comes to ruling their nation. Throughout the past year, they have tried, vainly, by accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of supporting the alert Muslims of Algeria, to transfer the crisis they are facing at home outside the Algerian border. But when the Algerian nation sacrificed one generation for the sake of the victory of its Islamic revolution against the French colonialists and when the red blood of 1 million of its children was shed, it had already voted for Islam. This is a reality of which the unwise Algerian leaders are aware. The Algerian coupists should know that the Islamic country of Algeria belongs to a living and revolutionary nation that has a culture. It cannot fool the public. The Algerian nation enjoys a freedom-seeking spirit and is politically mature enough to differentiate friend from foe. Today, the Algerian nation and all the world know that the violent and illegitimate Algerian regime is relying on the weak and shaky power of a limited number of military officials who have been cast off by the nation.

This reliance, in a society that enjoys political and social maturity and zeal and in a world in each corner of which the loud cry for Islam and justice can be heard, cannot last.

Velayati Interviewed on Afghan Peace Accord

NC0504111193 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
17 Mar 93 pp 1, 15

[Report on an "exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by TEHRAN TIMES Managing Director M. Soltanifar, Editor in Chief Morteza Firuzi, and Executive Editor Irfan Parviz; in Tehran, date not given; quotation marks as published]

[Text] A top foreign policy maker of the Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the tripartite effort for the solution to the Afghan problem "was a positive step."

"But", he said, "one should not hesitate in being optimistic that all will go right too soon."

Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati said, "You know that Afghanistan has gone through very crucial and critical stages including coup after coup which made the political situation very complicated."

In an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES Dr. Velayati said, "Those critical sensitive years inflicted deep wounds on the political life of that landlocked country."

"And one should not expect that these old wounds would heal so soon," he said.

"One also should not forget the tribal and ethnic ingredients of Afghan society which are stumbling blocks in the way to a solution of the Afghan problem and to the harvesting of fruits of the tripartite efforts in this direction."

Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia embarked on the move to bring all the rival Mojahedin on one platform for political stability and peace in that war-torn country which remained under the former Soviet Union's thumb starting from 1979 until that superpower disintegrated into 15 states.

The Soviet superpower existed no more in September 1991 but its installed puppet government of President Najibollah remained in power until April last year when the Mojahedin took power.

Last week on Sunday, rival Mojahedin leaders signed an agreement in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad and vowed that they would lay aside their differences and invest their energies in the reconstruction of their country.

Since April last year and until the time they signed the Islamabad accord, several thousands Afghans were either killed or injured and considerable property damages were inflicted on Kabul and other cities of Afghanistan.

After Signing the accord in Islamabad the rival Mojahedin travelled to Saudi Arabia and came to Iran to put a final seal to the agreement in Tehran with the signature of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

"I think the Islamabad agreement provided the basic infrastructure for the Mojahedin to go ahead on the road of peace and prosperity," Dr. Velayati said.

"But", he said, "we can't say that the Afghan problem is solved 100 percent."

"It will be a mistake to be optimistic so soon," the minister said.

Dr. Velayati granted an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES. The daily's Managing Director M. Soltanifar, Editor-in-Chief Morteza Firuzi and Executive Editor Irfan Parviz were received by the minister at his office.

Commenting further on the Afghan issue Dr. Velayati said that an Iranian delegation at deputy ministerial level will soon be in Kabul in order to iron out the remaining points of dispute among the Mojahedin groups.

He admitted that other Muslim countries also tried to calm the situation in Afghanistan but the three i.e. Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia shouldered the greater responsibilities from the very beginning of the crisis.

"We three had common reasons and that was why we did not want to allow the slaughter our brothers in Afghanistan," he said and referred to every day clashes among the Mojahedin and the efforts of Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to stop the bloodshed.

Commentary on World Bank Loan, U.S. Opposition

LD0304115293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0955 GMT
3 Apr 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Despite America's disagreement, the World Bank has approved a \$165 million loan to Iran. The loan is given within the framework of cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the World Bank and will be used to develop a power station.

As one of the 24 members of the Board of Trustees of the World Bank, the United States, holding 20 percent of the bank's shares, tried during the past week, to raise a number of false claims in order to disrupt the provision of credit facilities to Iran. These efforts have, however, so far remained fruitless. [passage omitted]

For its first development program, the Islamic Republic of Iran needs \$27 billion from foreign sources to provide financial expenditure for its expansion and development projects. Therefore Iran welcomes credit facilities and foreign investment.

Along the same lines, the government has speeded up its economic reforms such as cutting down the number of different rates for the same currency, lifting price controls, transferring government-owned companies to the private sector, and balancing the budget.

The World Bank's \$165 million loan, the fifth project in the first phase of cooperation between Iran and the bank, is allocated for the development of the Qom power station, situated 150 km south of Tehran. Its repayment period is equivalent to a period of 17 years. [passage omitted]

In any case, with the termination of the imposed war, the Islamic Republic of Iran, above all, is thinking of the development and strengthening of its own infrastructure,

and Washington's baseless claims cannot disrupt the national determination to reconstruct the country's economy.

Velayati Discusses Ties With Iraq, Britain, Egypt

NC0504112393 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
17 Mar 93 pp 1, 15

[Report on an "exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati by TEHRAN TIMES Managing Director M. Soltanifar, Editor in Chief Morteza Firuzi, and Executive Editor Irfan Parviz; in Tehran, date not given]

[Text] Tehran—Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that there are some moves for the betterment of Iran's relations with the Iraqi regime.

But, he said, we can't say that we are on the eve of opening a new chapter in Irano-Iraq bilateral relations.

"Problems in the smooth flow of reciprocal relations between Tehran and Baghdad lie with Iraq and its policy," Dr. Velayati said.

"If they (the Iraqi regime) want to live with us sincerely they should behave like a good neighbor," Dr. Velayati said.

"Iraq does not have a clear-out policy in the region and it may be because of the situation prevailing inside that country," he said. "On the one hand that regime says that it wants to have good relations with Iran and on the other it asks the United States to block the way of the influence of Iran in this part of the world," he added.

"But, you know that during the last so many years and with such difficult times Iran has gone through, it still remained firmly on its feet relying on its people and beliefs," Dr. Velayati said.

He, however, said, that if the Iraqi regime wants to have cordial relations with Iran it has to show it by action.

"It's not a question only of Iraq," he said, "the same is true for our other neighbors who by now have realized that Iran is for peace and stability in the region and wants to have friendly and cordial relations with all without interfering in the internal affairs of each other."

On relations with Saudi Arabia, Dr. Velayati said that "we are at the stage of confidence building and hope that both countries will patch up their differences, and not be satisfied with a slow speed in this direction."

He said that an Irano-Saudi summit meeting would be held in future as both heads of states have expressed their intention to meet with each other. No dates have been fixed as yet, he said.

He reiterated Iran's policy on ties with Egypt and said "the further Cairo distances itself from Israel, the closer it would come to Tehran."

"It is our open policy that we are not in favor of tensions with countries with whom we have diplomatic relations and we want this same thing with Britain," Dr. Velayati, the longest surviving foreign minister said.

The soft spoken Dr. Velayati reaffirmed that the religious decree issued by the Founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran late Imam Khomeyni's 'still stands and is final.'

The hue and cry made by Britain and other Western countries are nothing but to divert the attention of their own people from internal problems.

On the Abu Musa issue Dr. Velayati said, "I should say that what occurred at the beginning of the crisis was in the interests of none."

"To internationalize the issue of Abu Musa will not produce a solution but will in fact complicate it," he said.

"If the people of al-Shariqah had any difficulty they could have referred to us and this could have been solved."

"The recent visit of Defense Minister Akbar Torkan was fruitful in this direction and we are satisfied with the talks he held there with officials of the UAE [United Arab Emirates]," he said.

Concluding his opinion on this region Dr. Velayati blamed "too much wealth for the crisis in this region."

* Article on Need To Destroy Israel

93LA0013A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 31 Dec 92
pp 18, 17

[Article by Mohammad Reza Alvand]

[Text] The Talmud orders killing, maiming, and the drinking of blood. These commands are issued to a race that does not recognize anyone's right to exist other than its own, and God has warned believers about this tribe since the time of Abraham (Peace be upon him). Christians [as published] who have made the words of God and the prophets a pretext for their deviation and oppression, are a nation that has become like mad dogs with its savagery and killing of the chosen ones.

This nation is not only seeking to seeking to achieve its "designated land." It also has drawn a map for the entire world, and like a raging cancer, they seek to roll up every nation and every belief in order to destroy them.

Eyes and ears must be open to the underground influence of the armed and equipped Zionist Jews, because they are the same ax about which God speaks in the Holy Koran.

"Do you not see those who affirm the word of God for you and guide you? In reality, there is a group of them who may then change the words of God and distort them, after they have understood and know." Surah of the Cow (69-75) [as published].

In this verse God is referring to the Bani Israel and the Jewish nation, and he orders the believers and all those who seek truth to be watchful of them.

Likewise in the celestial book of the Muslims and in their history full of peaks and valleys, here and there we encounter comments concerning this tribe, which is famous for causing trouble and unbelief.

"The oppressors change words to something other than what was said." In other words, we must be aware of the

main characteristics of the troublemakers and infidels, which are deviation and trickery. They are deviants who change the light of day into the darkness of night in order to achieve their filthy goals. All the signs of godlessness are to be found in the race that the Holy Koran has called "Jews, Christians, and Sabians," meaning those who became Jews, then Christians, and those who go from one religion to another!

The Talmud and its filthy and inhuman teachings is the source of all the deviations to which the Jews and the Zionists have resorted as a sacred source!

In the world today, the disasters at the Sacred House, the Dome of the Rock Mosque, and in parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina or the former Yugoslavia are an exhibition of the teachings of the Talmud. The Serbs, who are carrying out these teachings by slaughtering, lynching and invading, are considered the pride of the nation of Israel.

In the literature and art of today, however, there is so little warning and demonstration of all this filth that you would think it does not exist at all.

Now the troublemaking nation easily penetrates and is penetrating our language and culture, and it is for precisely this reason that it is incumbent upon all aware people and believers of the truth to expose all signs of Zionist corruption and destruction, to study it well, to use their literary and artistic talent on its development and continuation, and of course there are many filthy signs and indications of the Zionists in the bitter experiences of today's humanity.²

A book entitled *Blood for the Sacred Unleavened Bread* published recently by the dear ones at Barg Publications is readable and disturbing, a book that may awaken the sleeping and heedless minds of many intellectuals.

This book, written by Najib al-Kilani, is based on real documents existing in Syria. Mr. 'Esa Motaqizadeh translated it into Persian and Mr. 'Ali Mo'meni rewrote it in his capable style. May all of these dear ones be rewarded.

The goal of this book, as stated in the publisher's note, is to clarify and alert all those who seek the truth: "This is a true story and has been written based on verifiable documents. The goal of its author (Najib al-Kilani) is to demonstrate some of the crimes of the Zionists. The rancor and antipathy of Zionism towards Islam and Christianity is no secret to anyone, and history has witnessed countless plots by this nation against the true religions...."

The book is written in the form of a long story in 21 chapters. It guides the reader towards continuous understanding.

One of the good features that is used in the beginning of the book is the index of names.

This keeps the reader aware every moment of the sources and helps identify the shape of the story from its real contents. The main characters in the true story are no more than eight, but the remaining 10 people in connection with this disturbing incident are integrally involved.

Time and Place of Incident

Place: Damascus

Time: Between February and September of 1840. At that time Damascus was protected by Mohammad 'Ali Pasha, the ruler of Egypt.³

Among the savage and filthy teachings and instructions of the Talmud is to capture and kill the followers and even the leaders of other religions (Christianity, Islam—the goal of today's undermining of Islam) and make special (unleavened) bread from their blood, the eating of which will cause a miracle!

Davud Harari is a wealthy Jewish merchant, tormented by sexual impotence. His unfaithful and lustful wife Camilia betrays him to compensate for this impotence. With an evil plot by his family members he decides to kill Father Tuma, a believing and famous priest of Damascus, and to use his blood to make the miraculous bread!

Yes Davud, if you do this, your sexual potency will be unbounded and your wife will never leave you again, for this is part of the gospel of the Talmud!

It is thus that the terrifying crime of killing and lynching the kindly priest and his poor steward is committed.

The stench of the case envelops everything, and public anger rises against the Jews. It is here that Zionism decides to intervene in the arbitration of the case.

The events that are brought into the story as the result of this are strange and disturbing. Let us read a chapter of it together: Soleyman said: "Yes, Mr. Pasha, I tell you the defendant whose name I have mentioned took Father Tuma to the home of Davud Harari. Then he asked me to kill him. Father Tuma's hands were tied. I said I cannot do this. He made promises and threats and I did not agree. Harun Harari gave me an auction advertisement to put on the wall. You will remember that I said after my arrest, I saw Harun Harari when I came here? He told me not to say anything and promised that after my release he would give me a big reward."

"Who took you to Davud's house?"

"His servant, Morad Fatal."

The Pasha ordered: "Bring Morad." He then turned to Soleyman and said: "Are you sure that what you are saying is the truth, and not out of fear of the whip?"

"I swear, and I'm willing to confront them face-to-face to make you believe me."

"Were the women in the house at the time the crime was committed?"

"I didn't see anyone other than the accused person whose name I gave."

"Who opened the door for you?"

"Davud..."

"Did you stay there after you refused to kill the priest?"

"No, I couldn't stand to stay there. First I stopped by my store and then I went home."

"Did the priest shout?"

"Yes, but no one heard him, because Davud's neighbors are all Jews."

"Where was Ibrahim 'Ammar, Father Tuma's servant?"

"He was killed in another place. His killers were working with the father's killers."

They brought Morad Fatal. He was terrified. In answer to what Soleyman had said, he said: "I went looking for Soleyman, because I had a message for him from the boss, but he is lying. I returned to the house alone, and none of those whose names he gave were there."

They made Davud Harari face his servant, Morad. The Pasha said: "What do you have to say about your servant's confession, Davud?"

Davud said: "Both Soleyman and Morad are mistaken. Why don't you remember, Morad? I went to the customs office that day. Do you remember?"

Morad said: "Ah, yes, boss, this Soleyman also caused me to make a mistake."

By order of the Pasha, an inquiry was made at customs, and the falseness of Davud's claim was proven. Thus the interrogation of Soleyman continued. Sharif Pasha felt that Soleyman still had not revealed what he knew, information that could be revealed, and this had to be done as soon as possible, because it was rumored that they were going to kill Soleyman in prison. On the other hand, Sharif Pasha felt that there was a movement afoot to prevent the continuation of the interrogation. He said: "Are you afraid, Soleyman?"

Soleyman looked at him pleadingly.

"I swear on my word of honor that if you tell the truth I will pardon your sin. My main concern is preventing the disturbance that is about to happen. I am prepared to say in writing that if you tell the truth I will release you."

Crying, Soleyman said: "It was sunset when Morad came to get me."

We went to Davud's house. All the accused people I named were there. They had tied up Father Tuma. They told me to kill him. I threw the priest on the floor and the others held his hands and feet. I put his head in a tub, Davud cut his head off and his brother helped him. They did not let one drop of blood fall on the floor. He thrashed. After he was dead, we took him to a room that had sawdust and wood on the floor."

They took off his clothing and burned it. As they ordered, Morad Fatal and I began to cut up the body, and we put each piece in a sack. When this was completed, we took the sack and threw it in the gutter near the home of Khakham Musa Abol-'Afiyeh. In order to calm the excitement Morad and I felt from doing this, they kept promising us that I would be very rich and that Morad would also get the girl Astar that

he wanted. This is all of the things that happened. Now perhaps my conscience will be somewhat at ease."

In a shaking voice, Sharif Pasha said: "When did you finish this task?"

"Early in the evening."

"Nothing else special happened that you forgot to mention?"

"Of course. The accused people sang and danced. They were quite happy. Ah, how could I forget that scene? They told Father Tuma, who was in great pain: Suffer, just like Christ Jesus suffered on the cross."

Soleyman was so upset that it was useless to continue with the interrogation. They took him to his cell and brought Morad.

Pasha said: "Soleyman confessed everything. It is better if you also tell whatever you know."

Morad, who was very afraid, repeated exactly what Soleyman had confessed.

The French consul said: "What did the Jew do with the human blood?"

Morad said: "He used it to make unleavened bread."

"Did you hear this from his own mouth?"

"Not only did I hear it, I saw it with my own eyes."

Colonel Hasan Beg said: "We had better investigate the time and place of the crime and complete the file."

The news spread quickly through the city. In the city everything seemed to be bad.

The colors, the smells, the voices...the children took refuge with their fathers and mothers from this badness, and the men and women turned to one another to escape it. Those Jews who could fled the city, and those who could not hid in their houses.

Father Tuma and Ibrahim 'Ammar turned up in poetry and the people talked about them.

The suffering and regret that takes hold of us when we read this book is not without reason. The truth of the matter is in the disclosure of the crimes that arise from this very way of thinking. We all know that usurper and criminal Israel is the largest international gang in the Zionist organization. It must thus be destroyed.

The crimes of the Serbs in the former Yugoslavia were ordered by such inhuman and savage teachings, the results of which we see every day.

It will be interesting here if we tell our respected and aware readers that all the evil and filthy plans in the farthest points of the world have no origin other than Zionism. This race and this humanoid tribe is made up of the corrupt people God commanded us to watch out for and catch. The secret of Zionism in the creation of processes such as imperialism, exploitation, communism, and finally the New World Order, is still vital and productive. What we are trying to do, through the power and grace of God, is to continue the rare examples of anti-Zionist art and literature on these pages. We will not be without the help of all those who seek truth and who are concerned. It is hoped that with persistent and continuous articles, we will be able to continue to study on these pages the cultural influence of Zionism as a chronic and fearsome plague.

We are waiting for the latest work from concerned people.

And success comes from God.

Footnotes

1. An order from His Holiness Imam Khomeyni (Peace be upon Him), and the great anti-Zionist slogan that clears the way for destroying unbelief. [footnote not identified in text]

2. *The Culture of Language*, written by the esteemed scholar Mr. Shams al-Din Rahmani (Barg Publications, 1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990]). It is one of the useful sources for revealing the cultural influence of Zionism.

3. *Blood for Sacred Unleavened Bread*, by Najib al-Kilani, rewritten by 'Ali Mu'zeni, Barg Publications, 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993].